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WEEKEND, MARCH 3-5, 2017

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SEE PAGE 02

See page 19 for the delicious details ★ MARCH 3 – 12, 2017 ★ The Big Taste FOODIE FESTIVAL ★ BIGTASTECALGARY.COM

Kym, left, and Anna Hakze are alive and in the U.S.
LETHBRIDGE POLICE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOUND AFTER 30 YEARS

Police say sisters Kym and Anna walked away from their lives, but now their Alberta family wants to reconnect metroNEWS

Rights, rates, reclamation in throne speech

LEGISLATURE

Province lays out priorities amid rebound in the economy

The province's throne speech outlined the goals and priorities of Premier Rachel Notley's government as it begins a new legislature session set to run until June 1.

Government house leader Brian Mason had already said there will be at least 15 bills introduced, including the budget on March 16.

Initiatives outlined by Lt.-Gov. Lois Mitchell include a consumer bill of rights and legislation to protect victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

The province, working with the federal government, plans to make sure orphan oil wells are safely closed and the land reclaimed.

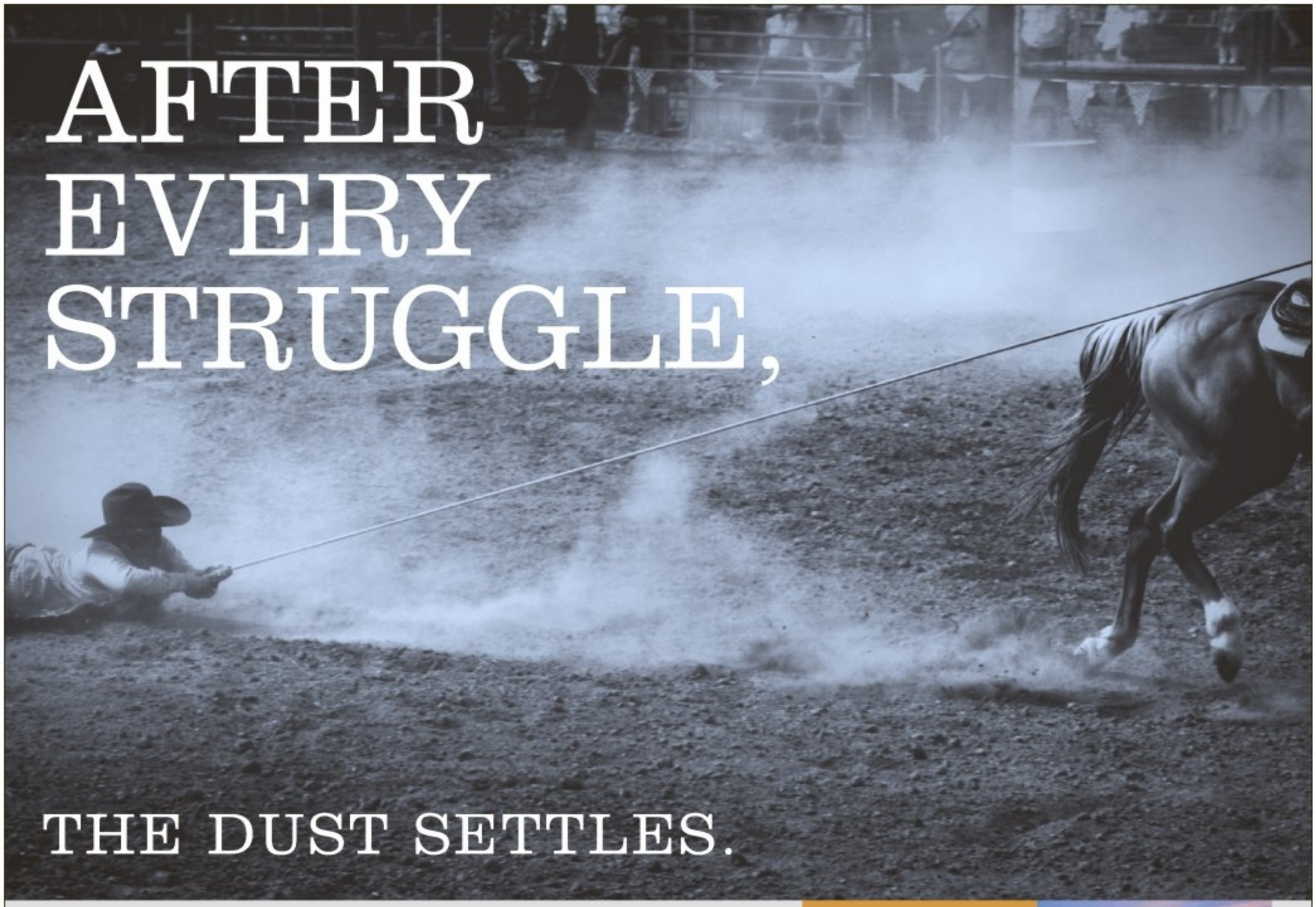
There are to be new measures to expand whistleblower protection and strengthen conflict-of-interest laws.

The province also hopes to pass legislation giving legal teeth to a promise made last year to cap electricity rates so families won't be hit with price spikes as the province moves off coal-fired power to renewable energy.

This is the third throne speech from Notley's NDP government, which reaches the midpoint of its mandate in May.

It's been a rocky ride, as low oil prices have led to tens of thousands of Albertans losing their jobs and seen the province's deficit rise to $10.8 billion this year.

The economy appears to be on the rebound. Rising oil prices allowed the government to take in $1.5 billion more than expected in the current fiscal year, but the province has spent the extra money. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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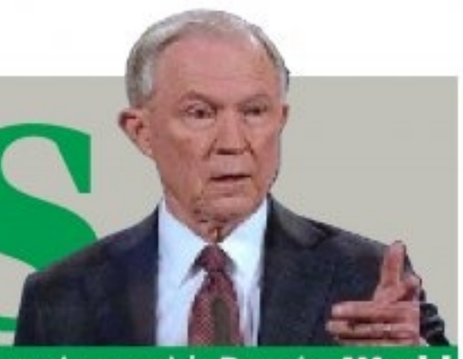

Jeff Sessions recuses himself from probe of Trump's interactions with Russia. **World**

Provincial bill to reduce fees

EDUCATION

Parents will not cover in-class supplies, buses if passed

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Calgary parents are cautiously optimistic after the Alberta government tabled Bill 1: An Act to reduce school fees, Thursday afternoon during the 2017 throne speech.

According to the government, should the bill pass, Alberta parents will no longer have to pay school fees for things like instructional supplies (textbooks, workbooks, photocopying, printing or paper supplies), or for eligible students who take the bus to their designated schools.

"These two fees cost Alberta families more than $50 million each year," said the government. "They account for approximately 25 per cent of the total fees charged to parents."

"Our government believes in a publicly funded education system and school fees should not be a barrier to kids getting a good start in life, no matter their circumstances," said David Eggen, minister of education.

> We will need more details of these legislative and regulatory changes to understand the impacts on students. Joy Bowen-Eyre

Joy Bowen-Eyre, Chair of the CBE Board of Trustees, said she's waiting to hear more information about the reduction in fees at a briefing on Friday. LUCIE EDWARDSON/METRO

Should Bill 1 be proclaimed, it would result in amendments to the School Act and the creation of a new school fees regulation before the next school year.

Lisa Davis, founder of Kids Come First, said that school fees have created disparities across school boards so this is a positive step.

"We look forward to hearing further details of the new rules and how it will be funded," she said.

The government said they will make further announcements about funding at the March 16 reading of the budget.

Over the last number of years, the introduction of a lunch-hour supervision fee at many school boards has ruffled the feathers of Alberta parents.

The government said their current focus is eliminating fees for instructional supplies, materials, and busing for eligible students attending their designated schools.

They said in the long term, however, the proposed amendment would provide the minister with "increased authority over all school board fee types related to publicly funded education programming."

Joy Bowen-Eyre, board of trustees chair, welcomed the news but added some concerns.

"We will need more details of these legislative and regulatory changes to understand the impacts on students and their families," she said.

Bowen-Eyre said this means they will also need increased funding to cover the gap of what they charge in fees. She is expecting more information at a briefing Friday.

BY THE NUMBERS

1

Bill 1 proposes that parents will no longer have to pay school fees for instructional school supplies, or for eligible students who have to take the bus to school.

$50M

Combined, these fees cost Alberta families $50 million each year.

25%

This accounts for about 25 per cent of total fees parents are charged.

From Rust Belt to tech hub

ECONOMY

Pittsburgh's ex-mayor offers up insight on diversification

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Tom Murphy led the city of Pittsburgh out of its darkest days and into the 21st century.

As mayor from 1994 to 2006, he helped with the transition from a dying, one-industry city in the rust belt to a leading city in the tech revolution.

And he brought an important message to Calgary's Downtown Economic Summit on Thursday.

"You are nowhere near where we were, which is good news," said Murphy. "But I think the lessons are: how do you begin to reimagine your city Calgary, as we did in Pittsburgh?"

During the decline of the steel industry in Pittsburgh, the city lost nearly half a million residents. But all that's behind them now.

"We have now created more jobs in technology than we had in the steel industry," said Murphy.

Companies like Google and Uber have major offices in the city, in part because they want to be close to some of the leading artificial intelligence research being conducted by Carnagie Mellon University.

Universities played a big role in turning the city's fortunes around, according to Murphy, because they acted as the incubators for new industries.

"The universities were there for 100 years but we never much thought about where the graduates went," he said.

Graduates were starting tech companies in Silicon Valley, where venture capital was plentiful.

To get venture capital, the city partnered with the state to require government pension funds to invest up to 2 per cent of their assets in venture capital firms. In return, the firms would match the money and locate an office in Pennsylvania.

"We went from having no venture capital firms to having 17 offices in Pittsburgh. It changed the conversation, said Murphy. "People began to think in a very different kind of way."

Tom Murphy served as mayor of Pittsburgh for three terms, from 1994 to 2006. He helped guide the city from a dying steel town to a tech hub, and he brought his story to Calgary's downtown Economic Summit. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

To address real estate, Murphy said they turned to public-private partnerships, which helped reduce the risk for investors, but led to money for the city when developments were successful.

Scott Hutcheson, executive chairman of Aspen Properties in Calgary, said the city is showing signs of improvement in its real estate industry.

"Overall I think the feeling of the business climate is that we're somewhere near the eight or the ninth inning in a cycle," he said.

Murphy said Calgary has many of the things it will take to build a strong tech sector and a diversified economy.

"You are so well positioned in Calgary to take advantage of the future. The question is, do you have the community will to reach for the future?"

Summit keeps it simple

As summits go, Calgary's Downtown Economic Summit wasn't an exhaustive weekend of schmoozing and seminars.

"We're approaching this differently," said Coun. Evan Woolley. "How do we gather people together, have a super tight agenda, and not make this overly burdensome?"

The crux of the event happened over four hours Thursday afternoon and evening, but Woolley said there would be ways for participants to continue the conversation

"There is a follow-up segment," he said. "Depending on what comes out of today, we've flagged some next steps."

Calgarians will get to weigh in, too, according to Woolley. He said an online portal will be created for feedback.

Coun. Druh Farrell spearheaded the event. She stressed that this wasn't about pitting the core against the rest of the city, but of recognizing that the entire city's health depends on the health of the downtown.

She said the interest was overwhelming. BRODIE THOMAS/METRO

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CITY HALL

Nenshi pushes back at Chabot's critiques

Coun. Andre Chabot. METRO FILE

A new mayoral contender for Calgary means kicking off eight months of back-and-forth public debate.

Only a day into Coun. Andre Chabot's race, current mayor Naheed Nenshi is pushing back on the 12-year city hall veteran's platform.

Although Nenshi noted both he and Chabot vote similarly on most items, with the exception of secondary suites, and they get along great as colleagues, he's hoping this race they can debate the facts.

Chabot's key issues, and what he's campaigning to better, surround the direction that he sees the city and council going.

On Wednesday, he told Metro he's looking to challenge council and the current mayor to use tax dollars better and eliminate the adversarial culture he sees rearing its ugly head at city hall and in the corporation's own offices.

But Nenshi quipped back that the city's own polling of employees doesn't show a fear of speaking up or out to superiors.

"Our 'cut red tape' project included hundreds of ideas from city staff, many of which have been implemented," the mayor told reporters. "We've implemented a new program called Civic Innovation YYC specifically about this. It's just right across from council chambers, so Coun. Chabot might want to go visit sometime."

HELEN PIKE/METRO

Luc Sinal, president of the MRU Student Aviation Executive, in the cockpit of one of the school's two remaining TECNAM twin-engine aircraft. **The school has decided to ground this plane and another like it after two experienced pilot instructors died in a crash on Feb. 13.** HELEN PIKE/METRO

MRU planes grounded

AVIATION

School's twin-engine aircraft won't fly amid investigation

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Mount Royal University has confirmed the aviation program's remaining two TECNAM planes are grounded indefinitely after a tragic crash in February killed two pilot instructors.

The decision comes as students return to flying for the first time since the plane went down. The twin-engine planes will be grounded until the Transportation Safety Board (TSB) and the school finish their respective investigations.

Students, of which there are 66 registered, returned to the cockpit this week in the program's five other planes — single-engine Cessna 172s.

"We are trying to come to terms with what's gone on as we begin to resume regular flying operations," said Leon Cygman, chair of Mount Royal University's aviation program.

"It's true that we can't instantly pick up where we left off. We are taking a cautious and deliberate approach to getting back into the air."

Students are being sat in the cockpit again — but this time, instead of taking to the skies in their regular exercises, their instructors are asking them how they feel before leading them to a fly around the airport in circuits before heading to their designated practice area and coming back.

"Our initial reaction is disappointment," said Luc Sinal, president of the MRU Student Aviation Executive. "We're all ready to get back to flying.... This will delay our training, but our school is doing a good job at being accommodating."

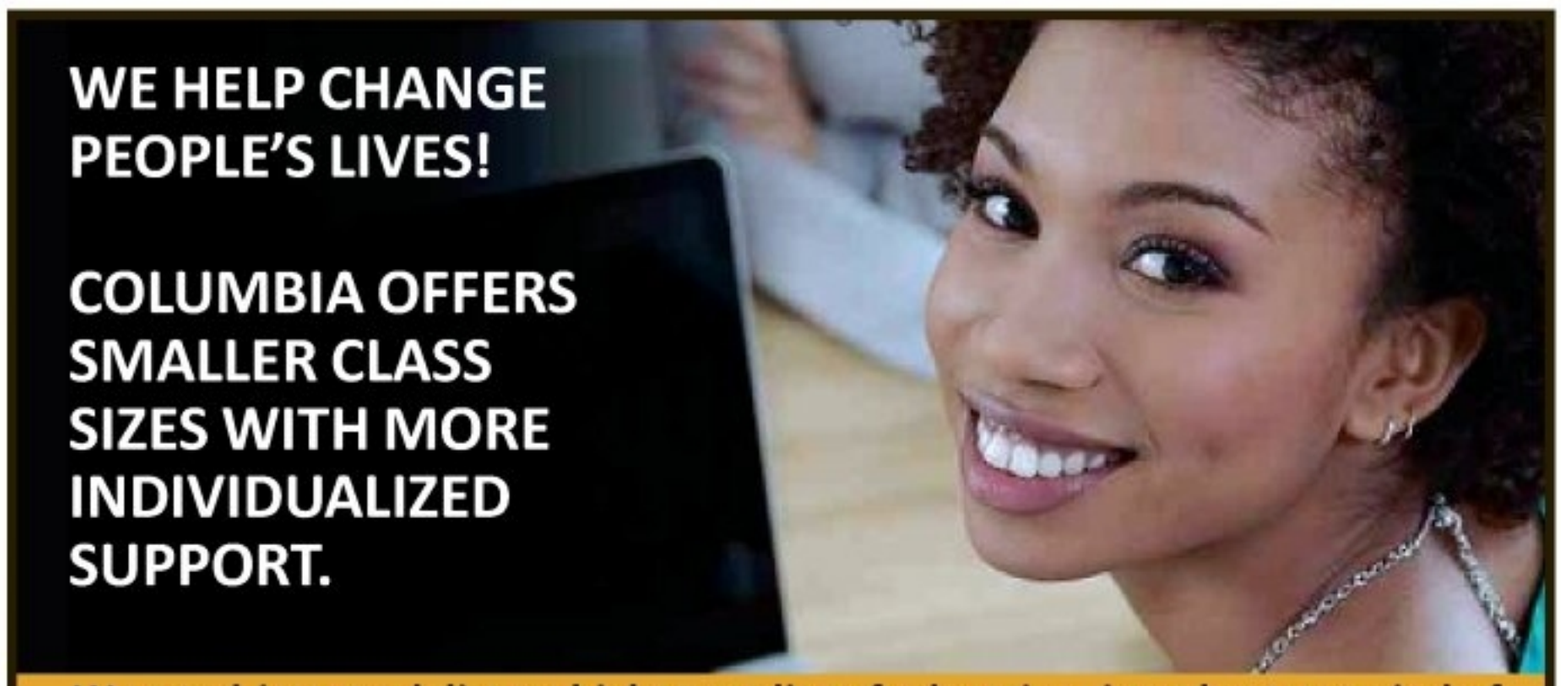
Sinal said each of the students are in unique positions and at different points in their schooling.

This is the first week back in the air for students since the loss of Jeff Bird and Reyn Johnson, two of the program's flight instructors.

Before starting class again, Sinal said the tight-knit crew of people sat and talked about what was on their minds and where the program would go. Then they were ready to move on.

Cygman said none of the students have dropped out of the program in response to the tragedy.

> **It's true that we can't instantly pick up where we left off.**
> Leon Cygman



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Metro | Calgary

Out of an abundance of caution the Calgary Housing Company is taking on the arduous task of replacing each and every lock on their 7,300 units.

According to RCMP in Airdrie an ABOE Locksmith parked their van at 304 Mackenzie Way SW on Feb. 27 and it was stolen overnight from the Mackenzie Way apartment complex lot.

Police found the van south of Airdrie towards Township Road 264, between 24th Street and Range Road 13 the next morning.

On Tuesday the affordable housing group learned the news. This contractor's vehicle had a set of locksmithing tools and information on board and although officials said the car has been located, the tools, which could allow someone access to an unknown number of housing units, are still missing.

Coun. Brian Pincott, chair of the Calgary Housing Company, holds up a pamphlet the group has handed out to 7,300 units after locksmithing equipment was stolen. HELEN PIKE/METRO

"We have been working through the night to make sure that we put a response plan in place," said Coun. Brian Pincott, chair of the CHC. "First and foremost to us is our tenant safety, everything we've done has that in focus."

Sarah Woodgate, president of CHC, said no personal information was stolen.

"We're going door to door, and asking tenants to look for information pamphlets providing information," Woodgate said.

"We're also providing additional security patrols to monitor CHC properties."

The process of changing locks could take the corporation six weeks.

Pincott said CHC has been working closely with law enforcement, and will be waiting for the outcome and don't know much yet about how much the re-keying and increased patrols will cost.

When asked about what current policies are for contractors Pincott said CHC will be doing a review of their policies and where contractor responsibilities lie.

"If the person who stole this equipment knew how to use it and put the equipment together with the information and knew how to put all that together, there's a potential that they can access some units," Pincott said. "They could create keys to access units."

POLICE

Man wanted in fentanyl seizure

Calgary police are on the hunt for a man wanted in connection with a record fentanyl seizure late last year.

On Dec. 23, 2016, police raided a home in the 2300 block of Richmond Road SW and also searched a nearby car believed to be connected to an ongoing drug investigation.

At that time, police seized more than 35,000 fentanyl pills — the largest such seizure in Calgary history.

One man was arrested and charged at the time and following further investigation a second man is now wanted on 29 drug and weapons charges.

Christopher Eric Elson, 30, is being sought by police. He's described as 5'7", 175 lbs. with blond hair and blue eyes. He has a wolf tattoo on the upper left arm and the word "Life" tattooed on his right hand.

Anyone with information on Elson's whereabouts is asked to call 403-266-1234.

METRO

Restructuring to address crime trends

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police see a big jump in 'acquisitive' crimes

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The Calgary Police Service (CPS) is "restructuring to move forward" in an effort to build efficiencies within their ranks, remove silos and provide comprehensive support to their boots on the ground.

Insp. Mike Bossley made a presentation about the reorganization of the force at the Calgary Police Commission (CPC) meeting Tuesday. He said beginning in 2014 CPS saw a big jump in "acquisitive type crime" that continued into 2016.

These crimes include robbery, break and enter, theft of vehicles or theft from vehicles.

"A large portion of these crimes are closely linked together and are often committed by a small number of prolific offenders," said Bossley, adding that, "drugs are fuelling the fire of this crime spree."

The CPS's investigative operations section is made up of four units: the General Investigations Unit, the Strategic Enforcement Unit (SEU), the District Support Unit (DSU) and Strike Fore Unit.

The SEU has three sub-units: gang suppression teams, gang enforcement team and drug undercover street teams, while the DSU is made up of the district operations teams, B&E teams and prolific offender engagement team.

The inspector said CPS can more effectively address the problem when they look at the whole spectrum, and that they have already begun to see success by better utilizing their resources across the service.

Bossley said CPS saw a 51 per cent increase in the number of stolen vehicles in 2016 compared to the five-year-average as well as a 32 per cent increase in break and enters.

Further, Bossley said drug seizures shot way up in 2016 compared to the five-year average with a 675 per cent increase in fentanyl seizures, 200 per cent increase in heroin seizures, 273 per cent increase in meth and a 26 per cent increase in other opioids.

According to Bossley these crime trends have had an impact on resourcing in the force and moving forward they will need to coordinate with an assigned Crown prosecutor to address the high recidivism rates among prolific offenders.

RESEARCH

Early pain linked to future health

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

Although we may not remember the first few days of our lives, science says our bodies do.

University of Calgary researcher Nikita Burke calls it "molecular memory," and she said the bad memories can have deep roots.

As recently as the 1980s, the medical community believed newborns and pre-term infants couldn't feel pain. Operating on the idea that the nervous system wasn't developed enough, they routinely performed major surgeries on babies without anaesthesia.

The myth has since been debunked, but further research has revealed a correlation between early pain and future health concerns.

"When these babies grew up, parents noticed that they had altered pain thresholds," said the postdoctoral scholar. "So we now know that this early period, the neonatal period, is a critical developmental period ... what we want to know is why this happens."

Through an Alberta Innovates Postdoctoral Scholarship, Burke is studying this link at a University of Calgary lab in the hopes of finding the answer.

Immune cells in the spinal cord and brain, called microglia, are instrumental in the development and protection of the central nervous system.

These cells are activated through pain, stress or trauma, according to Burke, which primes them for more severe responses to pain later in life.

"But if you look at these cells under a microscope they look the same" she said. "So it's clear they must have some molecular memory."

Tuan Trang, assistant professor with the Faculty of Medicine at U of C, is supervising the research and said that even a small surgical incision in infancy can alter the cell's circuits and cause adults to experience pain "much more profoundly."

By manipulating and studying the microglia of rodents, Burke is hoping to find out how these cells remember, and find a way to prevent or reverse the consequences.

With medical advances, Burke said that more children are surviving premature births. According to the World Health Organization, 15 million premature babies being born in the world every year and many requiring up to 10 medical procedures daily.

Postdoctoral scholar Nikita Burke is studying the link from early-life pain to lower pain thresholds in adolescence at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the Hotchkiss Brain Institute. JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

‘The ball is in their court’

MISSING

Family hopes Alberta sisters will reach out to reconnect

Darren Krause
Metro | Calgary

Edmonton resident Ken Hakze says he's ready to let the past stay in the past and move forward after the shocking news his family received earlier this week.

Lethbridge police revealed Thursday they'd located two Alberta sisters, Anna and Kym Hakze, that family hadn't seen since the mid 1980s, and were officially reported missing in 2003.

Lethbridge police confirmed the duo were positively identified by fingerprints after a lengthy investigation into their alleged disappearance.

The sisters' mother reported the two as missing in 2003 after not having seen or heard from them since the mid 1980s. They were last seen by family in Edmonton at that time.

According to Lethbridge police, Anna, now 67, and Kym, now 53, were inseparable, but at the time Anna was not connected to family. The pair disappeared together and hadn't contacted relatives since.

Ken Hakze said he's hoping his sisters will reach out to learn more about the family that's always held out hope they would be found alive.

"The questions (about their disappearance) are of no matter now," said Ken.

"I'd just like to move forward to see if we could rebuild our lives in a way that is working together and getting to know each other — and just to be thankful that they're alive and we're alive."

Kym (left) and Anna Hakze were last seen more than 30 years ago have been located alive and living in the U.S. CONTRIBUTED

> After so many years, it's very unusual for a case like this to end with good news. Staff Sgt. Scott Woods

Ken, along with his two brothers, said when he was younger he didn't fully realize they were gone; he thought it was something that was temporary.

"That's where my hope stemmed from," said Ken.

"There never was a finality to them being gone because there was always that hope that I would see them soon enough — but not 30-plus years later."

Lethbridge police said the investigation spanned two decades, multiple detectives and a lot of dead ends. They'd followed dozens of leads, including DNA submissions from family.

"After so many years, it's very unusual for a case like this to end with good news," said Staff Sgt. Scott Woods, who oversees the criminal investigation section with the Lethbridge Police Service.

"Usually we find ourselves telling a family their loved one has met with some sort of tragedy or more often than not in a case of this age, never being able to provide any answers."

A break in the case came during an annual file review in January when it was discovered that a theft report had been filed to the Vancouver Police Department 1999 with an alias attached to it of Anna Hakze. While the person wasn't Anna, they provided police with information involving a Crime Stoppers tip received in 2012, involving an author of several books with an alias believed to be used by Kym Hakze.

By doing an online search of the author's name, police located a recent story that had a photo of the woman and the area she was living.

In late February, U.S. police attended the home of Kym Hakze, who no longer goes by that name, and confirmed her identity by fingerprint match.

Ken said they haven't been able to contact his sisters yet, due to privacy reasons, but he confirmed the sisters have been made aware of the desire to reconnect.

"The ball is now in their court," Ken said.

LPS has been in contact with Kym Hakze and she told them that they didn't know they'd been reported missing and had simply walked away from their lives decades earlier.

They have not yet directly spoken with Anna, but they have confirmed her location.

PEOPLE

SAIT's oldest alumnus blows out candles for 102nd time

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro | Calgary

After blowing out three candles on his birthday cake, Clarence Hollingworth clapped his hands together and said he'd just made a wish for a "long life."

But those three candles were modest for the occasion, and Hollingworth's wish had already come true.

The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology's (SAIT) oldest alumnus celebrated his 102nd birthday (one day early) at the post secondary school's Heritage Hall on Thursday.

Hollingworth first stepped onto the campus in 1924 when he was in the fourth grade. A decade later, he graduated from the electrical program from the school, which was called the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art (PITA) at the time.

"It feels like I never left it," he said, while sitting inside the historic Heritage Hall on Thursday. "So much of the building is the same."

After leaving his studies, Hollingworth served in the Canadian Navy from 1939 to 1943. But in 1952, he returned to his alma mater as an instructor in the electrical program at PITA.

"The best memories are from when I was an instructor here," he said. "I really enjoyed that time."

SAIT president David Doss took a moment at the birthday party to read Hollingworth's handwritten 1932 PITA transcript.

As a student, Hollingworth was described as "gentlemanly," and "an outstanding boy" — but, perhaps most tellingly, one professor wrote that he "will go a long way."

And, as he laughed and shared memories with old friends on his 102nd birthday, there was no denying that.

Clarence Hollingworth celebrated his 102nd birthday at SAIT on Thursday. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

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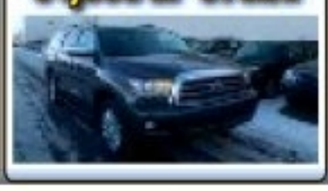

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University policy putting victims first

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Mount Royal's new approach empowers survivors

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

A victim-first approach.

Mount Royal University is launching into a whole new world of showcasing, not hiding or muddying, their approach to sexual assault and violence in the campus community.

On Monday, governors approved a final draft to the school's standalone Sexual Violence Policy which took more than 10 months to craft. The policy underlines a "survivor first" approach, which puts all decisions in the hands of a sexual violence victim.

"Prior to this there was a lot of confusion, and not enough support for students, staff and faculty in the same types of ways," said Student Association President Shifrah Gadamsetti. "Research and data shows that having a standalone sexual assault policy directly and specifically addresses this issue with the right types of resources."

> **Prior to this there was a lot of confusion and not enough support.**
> Shifrah Gadamsetti

According to the school, they're approached two to three times a year about sexual violence cases.

Cari Ionson, sexual violence response and awareness coordinator at MRU, said sexual violence impacts students, faculty and staff, and it's not something that gets talked about.

She said the new policy takes the silence out of sexual violence and encourages people to come forward for support.

Don't want to involve the police? You don't have to. Need help moving your schedule around to avoid the perpetrator who has allegedly harmed you? That's an option.

According to the school's VP of Student Affairs and Campus Life Steve Fitterer this approach will give more victims the courage to come forward, as they now have the assurances that any actions will be done on their own terms, and not the institutions.

"We don't take control of the incredibly difficult situation somebody may be experiencing, we don't take that away from them," he said.

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Fentanyl has been behind hundreds of deaths in Alberta since it first appeared on the scene. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

HEALTH

Police helping people get their fentanyl facts

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The Calgary Police Service is inviting Calgarians to "get the facts on fentanyl" at a presentation planned for next week.

Police said fentanyl has been in the headlines for more than a year now, and many Calgarians have questions about the drug. In an effort to answer these questions and provide information, CPS is hosting a public presentation next Tuesday.

Talking points will include current drug trends seen by CPS, including the rise of fentanyl. Participants will be getting "credible information" in relation to the risks of fentanyl and how to spot if someone is using the drug.

The presentation will take place from 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 7 at the CPS headquarters located at 5111 47 Street NE.

Space is limited so those interested are encouraged to reserve a seat by calling 403-428-8399 or emailing acritchley@calgarypolice.ca

SNOWMOBILING

Two-thirds of avalanche victims are from Alberta

All the avalanches that killed snowmobilers over the past five years occurred in British Columbia, but two-thirds of the victims were from Alberta.

Avalanche Canada says March is the deadliest month for snowslides and it is focusing its safety message on Alberta's snowmobilers this year.

The avalanche safety organization says of the 45 people who were killed in avalanches over the past five years, 24 were snowmobiling.

It says about 66 per cent of the snowmobiling victims were male Alberta residents, and of those, 73 per cent were from communities within 150 kilometres of Edmonton.

Last year, 12 of the 15 people who died in avalanches were snowmobilers, including five Alberta men who died in a major slide near McBride, B.C., in January 2016.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In the late '90s, Prozzak was known for their animated avatars Simon and Milo, and songs like Strange Disease. CONTRIBUTED

Prozzak tour Forever 1999

MUSIC

Pop duo will drop new album this month

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

In the '90s, animated pop duo Prozzak created a string of hits, including Sucks to be You and Strange Disease. Simon and Milo (Jay Levine and James Bryan McCollum) are now releasing their first album in a decade, with their same signature style. Appropriately, it's called Forever 1999.

This week the duo announced their official tour schedule as well, with a stop in Calgary on April 8. James McCollum chatted with Metro about the big comeback.

In the '90s you tapped into something really popular — have any of those themes changed now?

If you're talking about Simon's search for true love and not really finding it, I think that's kind of an eternal issue. I don't know if it's just for people in the late '90s. We hadn't thought about it at the time, but that was really for Jay — the creator of Simon. That was his experience. He's had a long, hard time finding the right girl and he was never really comfortable saying the things he wanted to say, except in a Prozzak song. Because it came from the heart, I can look back and say that's probably why people connected with it.

Why is now a good time for Prozzak to come back?

So, Simon and Milo were cryogenically frozen by accident, and just happened to get unfrozen a year ago. Luckily, it timed up with Jay and I getting invited to do this Atomic Lollipop festival in Toronto. It's like an anime, Fan Expo type of thing. It turned out to be an amazing time for us. Just the response totally blew us away.

Literally that one show jumpstarted the whole thing. We thought, 'OK, we gotta get Simon and Milo back out there.' We hadn't written any Prozzak songs in ages, but there was definitely a lot to write about. It's ended up turning into a full album.

How has your approach to song writing evolved?

Jay and I wrote the first couple albums in the same room together and that's changed a bit, because he's in L.A. and I'm in Toronto. But because we know each other so well, we're able to get in sync over FaceTime or Skype and get some ideas going.

But, nothing beats getting in a room together. So, last fall, Jay came up to Toronto and we agreed to write a song a day. We did that for 10 days straight, and most of those songs ended up on the album.

The process involves us laughing a lot. It comes from a fun place.

WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY
Michael Charles
Veteran blues artist Michael Charles performs at Bobby's Palace. Charles has been nominated eight times for a Grammy, and in 2015 he was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame. This is his 10th tour across Australia and North America, and he'll be playing songs from his 33-year career.
For more information, visit michaelcharles.us

SATURDAY
The Big Taste
Calgary's food festival returns this month, with more than 85 restaurants participating. Each one offers a unique, curated dinner or lunch. Three-and five-course meals are offered at several price points, from $25 to $65. Special, ticketed events also run throughout the 10-day festival.
For more information, visit calgarydowntown.com

SATURDAY
Maple Festival
Sticking around for its 15th year, the Calgary Maple Festival returns to celebrate French Canadian, First Nations and Metis cultures. This year's event features folklore, music, dance, games, workshop and magic shows. Explore the origins of maple syrup and taste some delicious treats.
For more information, visit calgarymaplefest-eng.com

SUNDAY
International Women's Day
Although International Women's Day isn't until March 8, the Calgary JCC is holding a weekend event to recognize the important day. Speakers include musician Orit Shimoni and the Lipshtick Comedy Chicks, plus a runway fashion show featuring local boutiques.
For more information, visit calgaryjcc.com

Cosplay couple snags invite

BACKSTAGE PASS

Bowdens to star as guest cosplayers at comic expo

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Lindsey and Richard Bowden have just been announced as guest cosplayers for this year's Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo, which is good news, because they're married and it would have been pretty awkward if only one of them got the invitation.

See, the two Calgarians met at the Calgary Expo a few years ago. Their fate must have been sewn into the cloth, because the two instantly hit it off, bonding over their love of geekery and cosplay.

Their love blossomed into a series of couples costumes.

"It's great to have the same interests," said Richard. "Our shop is in the basement, so we can go down together and spend more time together."

Having a partner who cares about how you look means they can share honest critiques, and often spend late nights bouncing ideas around and playing with fabrics.

Lindsey has been cosplaying for more than a decade, while Richard only started a few years ago. Lindsey helped him with his sewing skills.

Although the couple have won awards for their costumes in the past, they said they feel incredibly humbled to be asked to come as Cosplay guests.

> **It really challenges me to put myself out there.**
> Richard Bowden

It's already rewarding enough for both of them just to get recognized and asked for pictures at a convention.

Lindsey loves portraying characters that, although fiction, embody qualities she looks up to. There's a magic in bringing them to life.

For Richard, it helps him grow as a person.

"I'm a very big introvert," he explained. "You wouldn't expect to see people like me on stage. It really challenges me to put myself out there. We always try to push each other."

Every costume is a labour of love. Lindsey's Mystique (of the X-Men) requires hours of prosthetics every time she wears the costume.

Richard's Ifrit, a massive, shaggy costume from Final Fantasy X, is like walking around in a couch. But again, the look on fans faces at his costume are always heart-warming — even if he can't always make out the faces from inside the mask.

"For good and bad, we go in together," said Lindsey. "It's nice to know we have a support network." They've even found other couples who cosplay together, and regularly go on double dates.

The couple is still hush on what they'll be wearing at this year's Expo in April, but they're working on at least three new ideas.

Lindsey and Richard Bowden are known for their costuming skills, like X-Men's Mystique and Magneto. They're guests at this year's Comic and Entertainment Expo. KEICHUNG PHOTOGRAPHY

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Disabled dancer honoured by museum

HUMAN RIGHTS

Late Thomas Poulsen to be recognized for his advocacy

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Late Calgary dancer Thomas Poulsen is being honoured by the Canadian Museum of Human Rights for his advocacy on behalf of the disabled.

Poulsen was born with cerebral palsy, but became an integral part of the MoMo theatrical dance company shortly after it opened in 2003.

He passed away earlier this year.

Curator Julia Peristerakis said she came across Poulsen through a 2010 interview he had done with the museum, which is located in Winnipeg.

"I was really struck — he stood out with his spirit, finesse and the way he articulated his experiences as a person with a disability," said Peristerakis.

"He's the first person I selected for this exhibition."

The exhibition, Our Canada, My Story, highlights seven remarkable Canadians who have overcome human rights challenges. In addition to Poulsen, the museum highlights individuals like Widia Larivière, who co-founded the Idle No More chapter in Quebec and Ali Duale, a firefighter who fled Somalia's civil war.

Poulsen, through his work at MoMo, became an innovator for disabled artists, integrating traditional dance techniques with mixed or disabled dancers.

"There's no question that he was a trailblazer and a pioneer — one of the first disabled performers to break though the barrier between disability arts and mainstream performance," said Pamela Boyd, MoMo founding artistic director.

Although Poulsen died before being able to see the exhibition, he recorded a video last year, which will be featured in the museum.

"I think it's excellent we're still able to share his story and his impact and influence will still be carried through this exhibition and film," said Peristerakis.

"He really shared his personal perspective on what his life was like and the things he's faced. I think it's a real learning opportunity for many people."

The video will also eventually be made available online at museumforhumanrights.ca.

Thomas Poulsen was selected for his work with disability dance company MoMo. COURTESY ROB VINCENT

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Finally, You Have An Option Other Than Drugs or Surgery!

New research in a treatment called low level laser therapy, or cold laser, is having a profound affect on patients suffering with knee pain. Unlike the cutting type of laser seen in movies and used in medical procedures, the cold laser penetrates the surface of the skin with no heating effect or damage.

Cold laser therapy has been tested for 40 years, had over 2000 papers published on it, and been shown to aid in damaged tissue regeneration, decrease inflammation, relieve pain and boost the immune system. This means that there is a good chance cold laser therapy could be your knee pain solution, allowing you to live a more active lifestyle.

Professional athletes like Lance Armstrong and team members of the New England Patriots rely upon cold laser therapy to treat their sports-related injuries. These guys use the cold laser for one reason only...

It Promotes Rapid Healing Of The Injured Tissues.

Before the FDA would clear the cold laser for human use, they wanted to see proof that it worked. This led to two landmark studies:

The first study showed that patients who had cold laser therapy had 53% better improvement than those who had a placebo. The second study showed patients who used the laser therapy had less pain and more range of motion days after treatment. If the cold laser can help these patients, it can help you too.

Although there are different types of lasers, the Calgary Flames have 8 of our type of laser systems.

Could This Non-Invasive, Natural Treatment Be The Answer To Your Knee Pain?

For 30 days only, I'm running a very special offer where you can find out if you are a candidate for cold laser therapy.

What does this offer include? Everything I normally do in my "Knee Pain Evaluation". Just call before April 1, 2017 and here's what you'll get…

- An in-depth consultation about your problem where I will listen... really listen... to the details of your case.
- A complete neuromuscular examination.
- A full set of specialized x-rays to determine if arthritis is contributing to your pain.
- A thorough analysis of your exam and x-ray findings so we can start mapping out your plan to being pain free.
- You'll see everything first hand and find out if this amazing treatment will be your pain solution, like it has been for so many other patients.

Until April 1, 2017 you can get everything I've listed here for only $49. The normal value for this type of evaluation including x-rays is $250, so you're saving a considerable amount by taking me up on this offer. Remember what it was like before you had knee problems... when you were pain free and could enjoy everything life had to offer. It can be that way again. Don't neglect your problem any longer – don't wait until it's too late.

Here's what to do now:

Due to the expected demand for this special offer, I urge you to call our office at once. The phone number is **403 291-0603**.

Call today and we can get started with your consultation, exam and x-rays as soon as there's an opening in the schedule. Our office is called Northside Wellness Centre and you can find us near the Peter Lougheed Hospital just across the street from Value Village. Tell the receptionist you'd like to come in for the Knee Evaluation before April 1, 2017.

A new treatment is helping patients with knee pain live a happier, more active lifestyle.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jack Kucheran, D.C.
#16, 3434 34th Ave NE
Calgary, AB T1Y 6X3

P.S. Now you might be wondering…

"Is this safe? Are there any side effects or dangers to this?"

The FDA cleared the first cold laser in 2002. This was after their study found 76% improvement in patients with carpal tunnel syndrome. Their only warning – don't shine it in your eyes.

Of course at our office, the laser is never anywhere near your eyes and we'll give you a comfortable pair of goggles for safety.

Don't wait and let your knee problems get worse, disabling you for life. Take me up on my offer and call today **403 291-0603**.

Just arrived, and already giving back

Sitti Ali is a recent refugee claimant from Djibouti who walked to Manitoba from the United States. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

REFUGEES

Woman who crossed border aims to help

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
For Metro | Winnipeg

Sitti Ali says she does not miss her first home.

She doesn't elaborate on why to reporters, but the recently arrived refugee appears to be adjusting well to life in Winnipeg.

The 28-year-old from Djibouti walked to Canada through Emerson, Man. in November, after flying to the U.S.

She said she spent two months in Denver before taking a bus to Minnesota.

Ali said she heard people were finding their way to Manitoba through Minnesota and she yearned to make the trip.

So she took a bus to Grand Forks and from there, a taxi to the border where she met another group of six from Djibouti who were hoping to make the same trek to Emerson.

> **I really like to help people in any kind of way.**
> Setti Ali

Ali walked with three women, two men and an eight-month-old baby starting at 7 p.m. one night, she said.

When they arrived in Canada seven hours later, "I was the only one there who spoke English so I called 911 (and) said, 'We are refugees,'" she remembered.

She described the police and border services agents as welcoming and friendly.

Ali shared her story at a press conference where the United Way announced support for asylum seekers in the form of a new website: helprefugees.ca.

After about three months in Winnipeg, Ali said she is also looking to give back.

She's volunteering at Welcome Place, helping other refugee claimants file their paperwork, and is opening her own home to newcomers that the non-profit doesn't have enough accommodations for. Right now, she has 11 people staying in her home temporarily. The most she's hosted is 18.

Ali recently got her work permit, so finding a job is top of mind. She said her dream job involves "helping people" in any way.

LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

180 Silverado Blvd SW | 587.349.7814 | aviurban.com/buffalo

*Artist rendering. Possession subject to availability. Prices subject to change without notice. E&O.E.

AVIURBAN A MULTI-FAMILY DIVISION OF Homes by AVI

Advertorial

Aesthetics Today

Skinpossible

You will look like you have measles for a day... BUT THEN!

Roberta Segar

After the age of twenty, our body's ability to produce collagen and Hyaluronic Acid decreases with age, gradually resulting in wrinkles, fine lines, loss of elasticity, tone and volume. Over time, this loss of hydration and luminosity causes our complexion to look dry, wrinkled, dull and tired. Dark areas begin to appear and the skin's texture becomes uneven. It's something that cannot be addressed by face creams or by laser treatments. Now there is Redensity I, an award-winning light Hyaluronic Acid filler that is completely different than other injectable fillers.

Designed for light filling, Redensity I has amino acids, antioxidants, minerals and vitamin added. It is a medical treatment that consists of numerous micro-injections performed evenly across the area of concern to spread the dermal restructuring complex evenly into the skin. It works at a level that can't be reached by face creams or serums regardless of how diligent we are with our skincare regimes. This cost-effective skin revitalizer can be used to restore hydration, luminosity and tone to the skin on the face, neck, décolleté and hands.

To understand how it works it is helpful to understand how the skin works.

Collagen and Hyaluronic Acid (HA) are vital to maintaining the health of skin and when we are young, large amounts of both keeps the skin healthy and looking young. Collagen provides skin with its firmness but it is Hyaluronic Acid that nourishes and hydrates the collagen. A Redensity I treatment restores HA to the skin to provide continuous moisture by acting like a sponge, binding and absorbing up to 1000 times its weight in water. This increases hydration, adds volume and density to the skin and stimulates collagen production.

Redensity I is a wonderful way to revitalize your skin prior to a special event when you need to look your best or to rehydrate your skin in the winter or following a vacation or other times of extended sun exposure. It works as a corrective procedure and, with annual or semi-annual touch-ups, can also be used to prevent the signs of aging.

Edema and erythema will occur at each injection site so the treatment area will be covered with raised red bumps following the procedure. These bumps look like measles but will start to reduce in size within a few hours and will usually be gone (or barely noticeable) by the next morning.

Redensity I is effective for women and men and is safe for fair, medium and dark skin.

READ MORE >

www.skinpossible.ca/redensity-1-calgary

TAXI ASSAULT VERDICT

Consent must be affirmative and ongoing. Consent cannot be compromised.

Vicky Mochama
Metro | Toronto

An extremely drunk woman cannot consent to sex. Any public servant who continues to believe she can is making the world unsafe for women.

Judge Gregory Lenehan ruled Wednesday that a taxi driver accused in a Halifax sexual-assault case was not guilty because a lack of consent could not be proved.

"Clearly," he said, "a drunk can consent."

This is not true. Our understanding of consent has evolved, but Lenehan's is woefully outdated. Consent must be affirmative and ongoing. Consent cannot be compromised. A judge presiding over a sexual-assault case should know that.

The taxi driver, Bassam Al-Rawi, was charged after a woman was found in his car. Having entrusted her safety to the driver, a stranger, the complainant's inebriation only maximizes the horror of the situation.

Now, however, instead of safeguarding her trust and that of other women, some institutions have supported the man charged, and acquitted, in her attack.

The city's licensing committee, composed of city councillors, voted in August 2015, two months after the incident, to reinstate the driver's taxi licence with the conditions that he is not allowed to drive between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. and has to have a camera in his car.

That said, it appears he didn't file the paperwork required to start driving again. He does not work for his former employer, Bob's Taxi. However, the licence allows him to act as an independent driver and take fares.

The judge's ruling, too, is a failure to protect women.

While the judge acknowledges the moral obligation that the driver had to deliver the complainant home safely, he demonstrates a clear lack of knowledge on consent.

"(The complainant) might very well have been capable of appearing lucid but drunk, and able to direct, ask, agree or consent to any number of different activities," Lenehan said.

The complainant was found passed out and undressed in the cab while the driver tried to hide her underwear.

Toxicology reports shown in court revealed her blood alcohol content to be nearly triple the legal limit.

Again, a vulnerable woman cannot consent.

The councillors who relicensed the driver must be held to account.

So too must Judge Lenehan. (This is the same judge who issued a light punishment to Rehtaeh Parsons' tormentors.)

An outpouring of complaints are now being sent to the provincial and national Judicial Council.

Provincial intervention may be unprecedented in Nova Scotia. It has been at least 15 years since a public complaint against a provincially appointed judge has been referred to the Judicial Council, said a spokesperson for the provincial law courts to the Halifax Examiner.

Removing the judge is just one step.

The entire taxi industry must commit to educating their drivers not to commit sexual assault as well as no longer employing drivers who — conviction or not — have sex with passengers.

Feeling unsafe and left without justice, women in Halifax are already organizing to drive one another around by using a hashtag.

Rape culture is when women who do the right thing, like taking a cab home when they're drunk, have to ask for justice from the wrong person.

From the roads to city councils to the courts of justice, institutions must do everything possible to prioritize the safety of women or risk completely losing their trust.

SAFESPACE
THE SAFESPACE PODCAST
VICKY MOCHAMA
WITH ISHMAEL DARO
itsasafespace.com

TAXI ASSAULT VERDICT

Alana Canales is the woman behind #HaLiLadyCab.
JEFF HARPER/METRO

SAFETY

Women help each other with #HaliLadyCab

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

In light of a judge's verdict that found a taxi driver not guilty of sexual assault, Alana Canales said she wanted to move the conversation away from what the complainant should've done differently to, "I'm here for you if you need me."

Canales started the hashtag #HaliLadyCab Wednesday evening to identify women on Twitter who would be willing to pick up anyone for free who felt uncomfortable taking a taxi in light of Bassam Al-Rawi's not guilty verdict, and last year's spike of alleged sexual assaults in cabs.

"I don't know if anyone will ever ask me for a ride late at night, but I do know that having me as an option is valuable," Canales said via email Thursday.

As of Thursday afternoon, at least six others on Twitter had added the hashtag to their bios, including Corinne Gilroy.

Gilroy said she wanted to help after she watched sexual assault case after sexual assault case not be taken seriously by the judicial system and reached "a breaking point."

She also emphasized she'd happily pick up anyone who is non-binary, and might not use female pronouns since those people are often "more targeted" by personal violence, Gilroy said.

"Your civic responsibility, it has to do with how you conduct yourself every day and how you engage with people every day. And that might be the best hope we have going forward — each other," Gilroy said.

Canadians outraged

COURT

Hundreds call for probe after judge's not guilty verdict

Cody McEachern & Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Anger is growing across Canada against a judge who found a taxi driver not guilty of sexual assault this week. Petitions have been launched calling for an investigation against Judge Gregory Lenehan as people organize to protest his latest verdict.

More than 3,000 people had signed the main petition by Thursday evening, the day after Lenehan's decision allowed Bassam Al-Rawi to walk free.

Judge Lenahan when he was a Crown prosecutor in 2009.
COURTESY CBC

Bassam Al-Rawi was charged after being found with an unconscious and mostly naked woman in his cab on May 23, 2015.

During his trial last month, the Crown presented a toxicology report showing the 26-year-old complainant would've had a concentration of between 223 and 244 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood when police found her.

"Clearly a drunk can consent," Lenehan said in his decision.

The comments sent a tide of uproar across the country and spurred many to speak out.

The online petition calls the judge's views of consent "antiquated and dangerous."

"He should not be in a position to hand down decisions allowing sexual predators to go free," it reads.

Multiple protests have been planned for next week in Halifax.

"The point is to cause a disruption," said Amanda Dodsworth, one of organizers. "We want to be seen and be heard, and what better way to do that than with a couple hundred people marching down the street. There are a lot of angry people, and they need an outlet to voice their opinion."

Leah Parsons, the mother of Rehtaeh Parsons, has added her voice to those demanding a review of Lenehan. Parsons' 17-year-old daughter committed suicide in April 2013 following months of bullying related to an explicit photo of her and a boy that was shared around her high school. A teen boy was charged with child pornography in that case and was sentenced to 12 months probation after a trial in Lenehan's court.

A review into how police and the Crown handled the Parsons case found "errors from start to finish."

"For this man to actually walk free after all of that evidence? It is just sickening," Parsons said Thursday. "It's sending such a horrible, horrible message to other victims of assault. How are they going to come forward?

"He obviously has his own perceptions about what is consent, and that is the problem we see everywhere. He should definitely be reviewed by somebody independent."

Police and judges need proper training for dealing with sexual assault cases, she said. Everyone needs to be on the same page regarding issues of consent and how victims behave following traumatic events, she added.

WEBSITES

Online comments get a skill test filter

Andrew Fifield
Metro | Toronto

Canadians are quite familiar with skill-testing contest questions. Perhaps skill-testing comment questions will be next.

In a bid to keep a lid on the fetid swamp of racism, misogyny, and generally ill-informed fury that comments sections quickly become, a Norwegian website will ask those hoping to weigh in one simple question: Did you actually read the article?

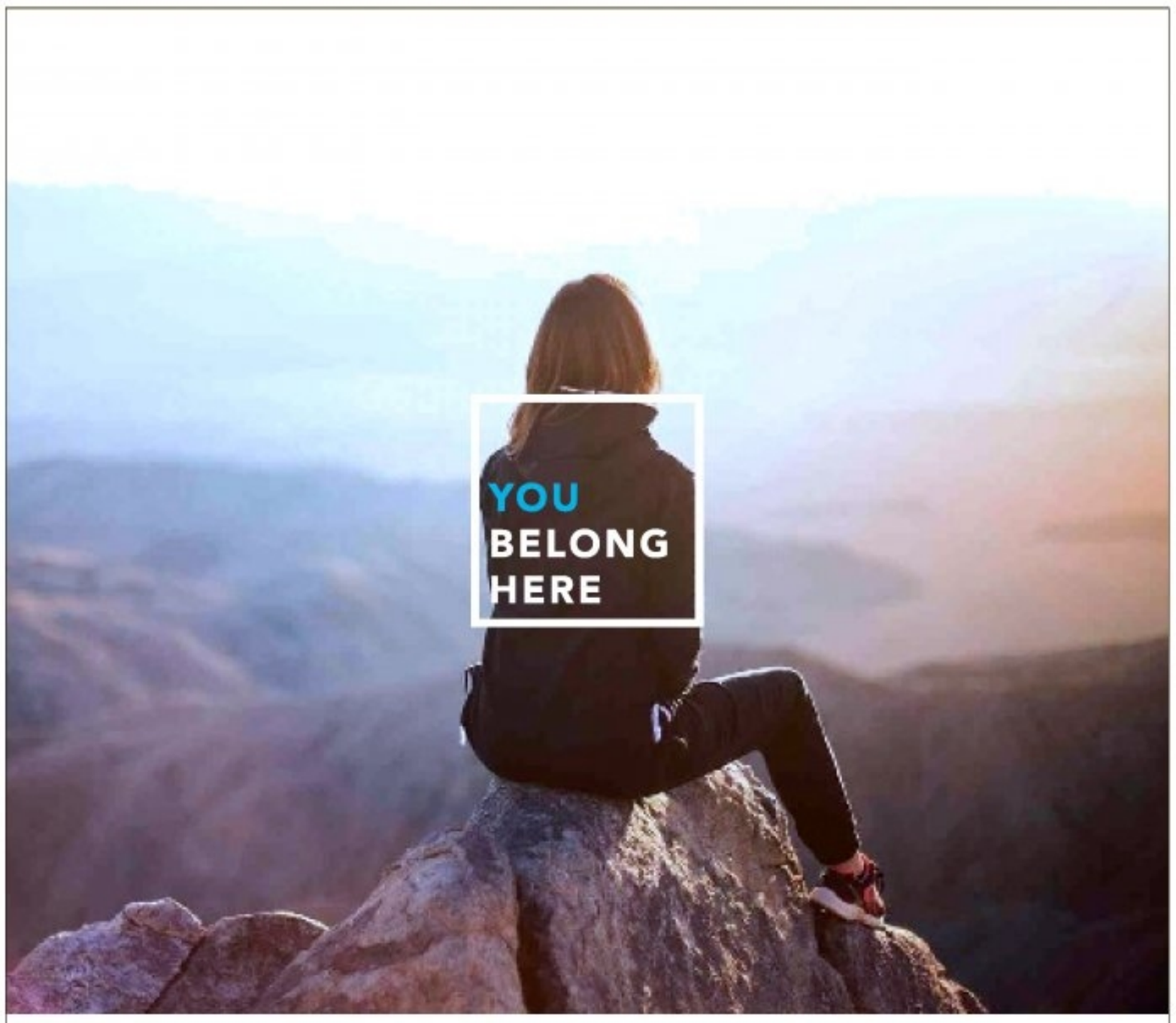
Last month, NRKbeta — a tech site operated by Norway's public broadcaster — introduced a new feature that quizzes readers on details of the article before they're allowed to toss in their two cents.

"We thought we should do our part to try and make sure that people are on the same page before they comment," NRKbeta reporter Stale Grut told Nieman Lab.

Many news websites, including Metro, have jettisoned comment sections after they were largely taken over by hostile and reactionary ranting. NRKbeta maintains a robust comment section, and its readership of tech fans usually means the discourse is at a higher level than most comment sections.

However, when an NRKbeta story was showcased in a more prominent spot on the NRK website, trouble quickly showed up. In one case, the comment section below a story about an online message board that posted photos of underage girls attracted a predictable raft of readers posting personal attacks.

The quiz itself is a WordPress plug-in that presents readers with three simple multiple-choice questions to test whether the aspiring commenter had a sensible grip on key details.



From here to anywhere

When Lauren Cross graduated from Mount Royal with a Bachelor of Arts – English, she had the grades and work experience that got her offers from five graduate schools. Now she's exploring her future from her new home on the west coast.

Where will your Mount Royal University degree lead you?

mru.ca/belong

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY 1910

Democrats are demanding an investigation into whether Attorney General Jeff Sessions committed perjury.
GETTY IMAGES

Sessions steps aside from probe

POLITICS

Evasion adds to suspicions around Trump and Russia

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself Thursday from federal investigations related to the 2016 election campaign, including a probe of interactions between the Russian government and associates of President Donald Trump.

Sessions' decision came the afternoon after the Washington Post revealed he had misled the Senate when he said under oath that he "did not have any communications with the Russians" during the campaign. In fact, he had at least two meetings with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

Sessions insisted at a Thursday news conference that his answer had been "honest." But he conceded under questioning that he should have disclosed he had met "one Russian official a couple of times."

The uproar surrounding Sessions, who was a prominent Trump campaign adviser, is only the latest development in a sprawling Russia controversy that has alternated between a simmer and a blaze throughout Trump's entire six-week-old presidency. Sessions is at least the second top Trump appointee to become engulfed by criticism over his inaccurate claims related to contact with Kislyak.

The other one, former national security adviser Michael Flynn, resigned in February.

Sessions brushed aside top Democrats' Thursday calls for his own resignation, and Trump said he thought Sessions had "probably" been truthful in his testimony. Sessions said he was recusing himself only because he had been involved in Trump's campaign, implying his January remarks were not a factor.

Regardless, the revelation that he deceived Congress adds more fuel to unproven suspicions that Trump is attempting to conceal something about his relationship with Russia and President Vladimir Putin. And the withdrawal of the nation's top law enforcement official from a major investigation deepens the appearance of disarray from an administration that was briefly buoyed by Trump's well-received speech to Congress on Tuesday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Offers available from March 1 – March 31, 2017. [1]Bonus cash discount of $3,500/$1,500/$1,250/$1,500/$1,500/$1,000 will be deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and is applicable to customers who lease, finance or purchase any 2017 Titan/2017 Rogue/2017 Sentra/2017 Pathfinder/2017 Murano/2017 Micra. Certain conditions apply. [2]Nissan parts and accessories credit ("credit") is available on select new and previously unregistered 2017 Nissan models purchased/leased/financed and delivered between March 1, 2017 and March 31, 2017. Maximum $4000 credit available on 2017 Titan models only. Other models qualify for lesser credit amounts as follows: $1,300 (2017 Micra, Versa Note) // $1,625 (2017 Altima, Sentra) // $1,950 (2017 Maxima, Juke, Rogue, Murano, Pathfinder, Armada). Credit consists of a discount that can only be used at the time of initial purchase/lease/finance and applied towards the purchase of Nissan accessories from an authorized Nissan dealer. Credit cannot be used towards the costs of installation of Nissan accessories and cannot be deducted from the negotiated selling price of the vehicle. Credit will be deducted from the price of Nissan accessories after taxes. Any unused portion of this credit will not be refunded and may not be banked for future use. Customer is responsible for all costs not otherwise covered by credit. Credit has no cash surrender value and cannot be applied to past transactions. Conditions apply. Offer is subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your participating Nissan dealer or visit Chooserissan.ca for details. For more information, see www.iihs.org. Forward Emergency Braking is an available feature. FEB cannot prevent accidents due to carelessness or dangerous driving techniques. It may not provide warning or braking in certain conditions. Speed limitations apply. Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis, for advertising purposes only. *Representative monthly lease offer based on a new 2017 Rogue S FWD, 0.99% lease APR for 39 months equals monthly payments of $254 with $1,495 down payment, and $0 security deposit. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $11,398. Lease Cash of $0 is included in the advertised offer. My Choice Bonus Cash of $1,500 is included in the advertised offer. [3]Models shown $38,019 Selling price for a new 2017 Rogue SL Platinum (PL00). All Pricing includes Freight and PDE charges ($1,795) air-conditioning levy ($100), applicable fees, manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. See your dealer or visit Nissan.ca/Loyalty. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. Certain conditions apply. ®2017 Nissan Canada Inc.

STATISTICS CANADA

Household spending gives economy boost

The economy closed out last year with unexpectedly strong growth at an annual rate of 2.6 per cent, numbers from Statistics Canada showed Thursday.

Credit the Canadian wallet, which is apparently a little thicker.

The biggest contribution to the fourth-quarter increase in real gross domestic product came from household spending, which also climbed 2.6 per cent, the agency said.

"It's really Canadians themselves that are driving growth," said Avery Shenfeld, chief economist for CIBC Capital Markets.

He noted the rise in household spending was connected to a surge in employee compensation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hidden costs of condos

MONEY MONITOR

Understand expenses like monthly fees, realtors say

Unlike a house, condos may have rules about what people can and cannot do in their units. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Buying a condominium may be an affordable way for many first-time homebuyers in Canada's big cities to enter the real estate market. But the condo market comes with its own set of costs that are different than buying a house.

Condos are generally cheaper than houses and in markets like Vancouver and Toronto, may be the only option for a first-time buyer.

There may not be the same maintenance chores with a condo that come with owning a house, but that doesn't mean there isn't a cost. Condo owners may not have to fix minor problems around the building themselves, but somebody does and they need to be paid.

Vancouver realtor Mike Stewart says all buildings have issues, so what is important is that the condo's strata council, which manages the building, is transparent and proactive about dealing with the problems.

Monthly condo fees are generally related to the size of the unit. They may sometimes also be based on non-square-footage features that affect the value of a unit, such as what floor it is on.

For those buying a condo, they need to understand the monthly maintenance fees, what they cover and how much they are expected to increase.

Ottawa lawyer Leslie Kirk, who specializes in real estate, says it is important to review the condo documents so people understand the financial health of the building and ensure the strata council is meeting its required obligations.

An inadequate reserve fund could mean owners might have to cough up cash for a special assessment to pay for things like windows being replaced or major repairs to common elements of the building.

Those living in a house may be able to put something off until they have the money, but not so for condo owners.

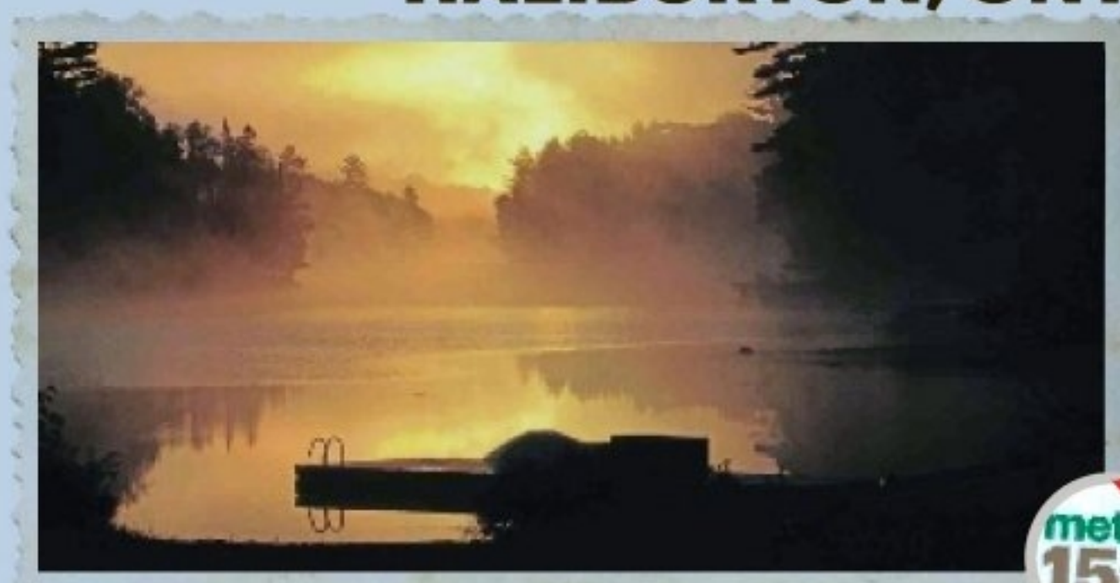
Condos may also have rules about what people can and cannot do, such as restrictions on the size and number of pets, whether or not they can install hardwood floors or if they can put a barbecue on the balcony.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 29

HALIBURTON, ONT



A GORGEOUS SEPTEMBER SUNRISE AT OUR COTTAGE ON OUTLET BAY IN HALIBURTON, ONTARIO. BEING AN EARLY RISER I GET TO WITNESS THE BEAUTY AND TRANQUILITY OF MOTHER NATURE AT HER BEST.
GAIL WILES

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR:
PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO:

Nicole Weekusk

Take notice that on the **11th day of April 2017 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 1207, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a TRIAL will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order;** of your children born on **January 29, 2010** and **December 7, 2011.** If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR:
PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO:

Terrence McNab

Take notice that on the **11th day of April 2017 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 1207, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a TRIAL will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order;** of your children born on **January 29, 2010** and **December 7, 2011.** If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

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Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR:
PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO:

Jessica Welton

Take notice that on the **17th day of March 2017 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 1408, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a TRIAL will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order;** of your child born on **April 18, 2015.** If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR:
PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO:

Monique Nepoose

Take notice that on the **22nd day of March 2017 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 1505, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta** a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order;** of your child born on **November 22, 2016.** If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR:
PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO:

Brendan Roach

Take notice that on the **22nd day of March 2017 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 1505, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta** a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order;** of your child born on **November 22, 2016.** If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

metro SCIENCE

Your essential daily news

Smog fees Lawyers suing Beijing over the city's smog are demanding compensation for the likes of masks and doctor's visits.

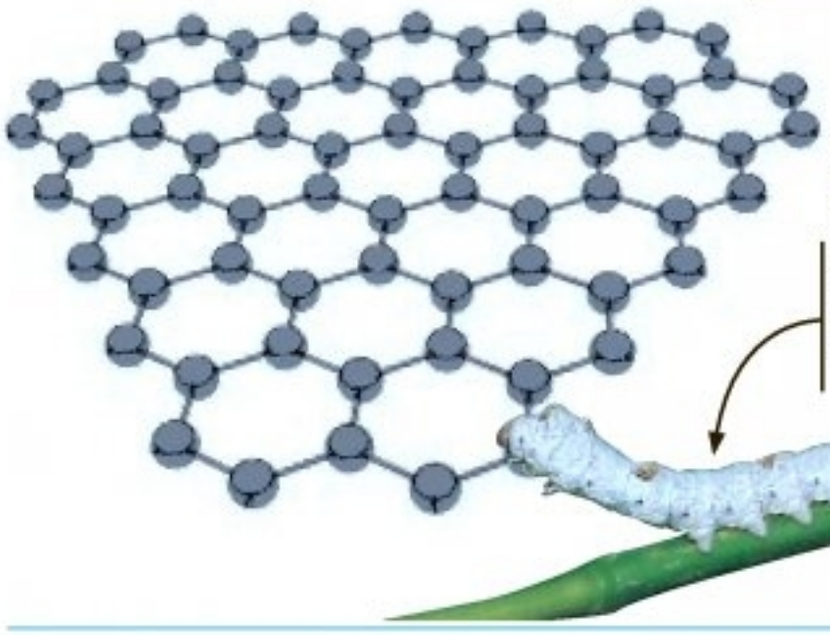
DECODED by Andrés Plana and Sarah-Joyce Battersby

WHAT TO EXPECT IN TECH

It's been almost 6,000 years since the wheel was invented, but science has not been resting on its innovation laurels. A mere 300 years later, wheels were first used for transportation. And now in the 21st century it looks like invention is starting to hit its stride, with new discoveries and applications cropping up regularly. **Here's a look at tech from the not-too-distant future**

1 Graphene

Touted as the first 2D material, graphene is very thin (one million times thinner than human hair) and very strong (200 times stronger than steel). Since researchers at the University of Manchester published their discovery of the material in 2004, more than 8,000 patents have been registered, with Samsung holding the most. The substance can be used in batteries, bendable computer screens, and water purification.



Researchers in Beijing fed graphene to silkworms, who turned it into super-strong, electricity conducting silk.

Nuclear waste diamond batteries

As 2016 came to a close, British researchers announced they could turn nuclear waste into diamonds that could in turn be used as long-lasting batteries. The power-emitting gems don't have enough juice to charge a smartphone, but they can last for thousands of years. So it's a trade off.

3 Pollinating Drones

Hoping to ease the burden on dwindling bee populations, Japanese scientists announced last month they had created insect-sized drones to pollinate plants. Enthusiasm for robot bees depends on how many episodes of dystopian TV series Black Mirror you've seen.

4 Hover-bike

For all your Star Wars-style transportation needs, a U.K. company is working to develop a manned helicopter bike. The project is still in the prototyping and fundraising phase, but it did attract interest from the U.S. Department of Defense in 2015.

Cooling Plastic

In an attempt to beat the heat, engineers have developed a cheap plastic film that blocks heat from the sun while also cooling anything it touches by up to 10 C. The details were published in the journal Science by researchers in Wyoming and Colorado, who say the method could be mass-produced and used to cool buildings.

Hyperloop

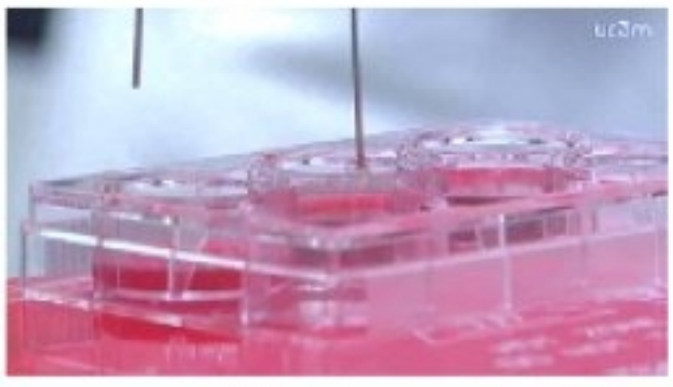
It doesn't exist yet, but if it did it could travel between Toronto and Montreal in 30 minutes. Students gathered for a SpaceX-sponsored contest in January to help make the dream a reality.

Translating headphones

These translation earbuds are set to start shipping in May. For now they only translate the romance languages and require all speakers to wear them, but in the future they could listen and translate all sounds around you.

5 Human skin printer

Scientists have developed a prototype for a machine that prints out sheets of human skin that could be used for transplants or cosmetic and pharmaceutical testing.



FINDINGS
Your week in science

Sweet pee Alberta researchers have a theory: test for urine in pools by looking at sugar levels, since artificial sweeteners stay intact in pee. Using the method, they found 75 litres of urine in a pool one-third of Olympic size. That equals about 37 big bottles of Coke.

Quebec cradle of life A team of researchers believe they have uncovered the oldest known signs of life on the planet in a spot on the shores of Hudson Bay in northern Quebec. The fossils contain traces of bacteria from 3.77 billion years ago.

SOUND SMART

MEAT SPACE

DEFINITION
Meatspace the physical world, as opposed to cyberspace or a virtual environment.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
Deborah has been using her phone so much to deal with social life that I think she forgot about the **meatspace.**

PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

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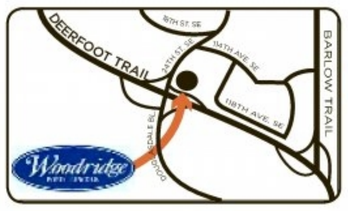

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metro WEEKEND

Your essential daily news

MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

A sweeter side of Wolverine

IN FOCUS

Hugh Jackman brings sharp humanity in mutant finale

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Temperament wise, Hugh Jackman doesn't have much in common with his most famous screen role.

As the embodiment of Wolverine — a mutant blessed with miraculous healing powers but cursed with a bad hairstyle and existential angst — Jackman is the face of the character. But off screen he is as gracious as his cigar-smoking X-Men alter ego is testy.

His Prisoners co-star Terence Howard told me Jackman was, "a sweet man," while director Josh Rothstein said the actor "leads with smiles and warmth."

Doesn't sound much like Wolverine to me.

When he isn't playing Wolverine he devotes his time to charitable causes like World Vision and Laughing Man, a coffee company he established that sells fair trade coffee and tea, products farmed using ecologically friendly methods and sold for the benefit of the farmer and consumer.

This weekend he stars in Logan, the third solo Wolverine film. In the new movie the X-Men antihero makes tracks to the Mexican border to set up a hide-out for ailing mentor Professor X, played by Patrick Stewart.

This installment marks the ninth time Jackman has slipped on the adamantium claws, and will be his swansong in the role.

Having played the character for almost 18 years Jackman owns the part, bringing real humanity to the mutant in an powerful and accomplished performance.

But, as he told me in a friendly, wide-ranging and informative interview, he wasn't always as self-assured.

"When I started acting I was the dunce of the class," he reveals. Success in school, he says, came because of his work ethic, a trait he picked up from his father.

"He never took one day off in his life," he remembers. "He had five kids he was bringing up on his own. If anyone deserved a day off it was my old man, but he never did. I learned that from him.

"There's always that feeling of, 'I have to work harder than everybody else. I'm not born Phillip Seymour Hoffman. I've got to just work harder and I'm prepared to do it."

Being the youngest of five children also contributed to his outlook.

"I always wanted to do stuff and not be left out," he says, but adds, "I was quite a fearful kid, which I hated.

"I've always had a fear of fear. It's weird to think back now but drama school is a pressure cooker situation. People get kicked out of drama school. You are constantly being judged on how you are doing; are you progressing, are you not?

Dafne Keen as Laura and Patrick Stewart's Professor X are Hugh Jackman's sidekicks in Wolverine swansong Logan. CONTRIBUTED

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Before I Fall	★★★
Ballerina	★
Table 19	★★★
The Shack	★
Bitter Harvest	★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

"Almost everyday you had to get up and do a monologue. Sing a song. Do it in front of everybody. I noticed I was always first. I never wanted to sit there waiting. I'm not saying that out of courage. It was too uncomfortable to sit, stewing. I don't think I've told anyone else that."

Later, fear of unemployment pushed him to expand his talents.

"When I came out of drama school I was like, 'I'm going to do anything I can just to keep working.' In drama school you do Shakespeare to movement to circus skills to singing all in one morning. I know a lot of people hated it but I revelled in it. I loved it."

Seems hard work and confidence is the X-factor that made Jackman the most famous — and friendly — of all the X-Men.

Avraham Aviv Alush, Sam Worthington, Octavia Spencer and Sumire Matsubaraa in The Shack, an Entertainment One release.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Octavia Spencer discusses backlash to her role as God

INTERVIEW

The Oscar nominee stars in The Shack, out Friday

Even though Octavia Spencer is pleased with the record number of blacks who were nominated for acting Oscars this year, she's still disappointed by the lack of recognition for other people of colour.

"Diversity doesn't mean just black," Spencer said in a recent phone interview to promote her new film, The Shack, which opens Friday.

"I'm excited that more black people are being recognized. That's what I would like to see arrive for other people of colour, because they are so valued and underserved. I think when we ask the public, the paying public, to support films that don't portray them on-screen, that's hypocrisy."

Spencer was one of six black actors up for an Academy Award at last Sunday's ceremony. Dev Patel, who is of Asian descent, was nominated for best actor. Spencer was nominated for her role in Hidden Figures, which was also nominated for best picture.

The diverse slate is a far cry from the past two years, when all-white acting nominees led to the social media hashtag #OscarsSoWhite and a national conversation about race in Hollywood.

It also compelled Cheryl Boone Isaacs, the president of The Academy, to implement a plan restructuring the organization's membership in an attempt to make it more reflective of women and minorities.

These days, Spencer has her own production company and believes she could be one of Hollywood's "biggest producers" in the near future.

Spencer wants to create a lane for women and people of colour to share their untold stories in film, much like Hidden Figures did. Spencer played the role of Dorothy Vaughan, a pioneering black mathematician who worked at NASA.

When she won the Academy Award six years ago for best supporting actress, it was for her role as a maid in The Help.

"We are multifaceted people," said Spencer. "Yes, women of colour served in people's kitchens and cleaned people's houses. But there are African-American doctors, scientists and lawyers... Those are the types of stories that we also want to see presented in film."

Spencer says that stories with a historical perspective resonate with her most. She's developing a series about entrepreneur Madam C.J. Walker, one of the first female millionaires in the United States (she will also star in it), and co-producing a HBO series about the Jonestown Massacre in Guyana.

The actress said her production company won't be limited to telling black stories.

"If it's a white story that hasn't been told, it'll be told," she said. "If it's a story about a Latin American, Asian-American, (I'll) tend to tell it."

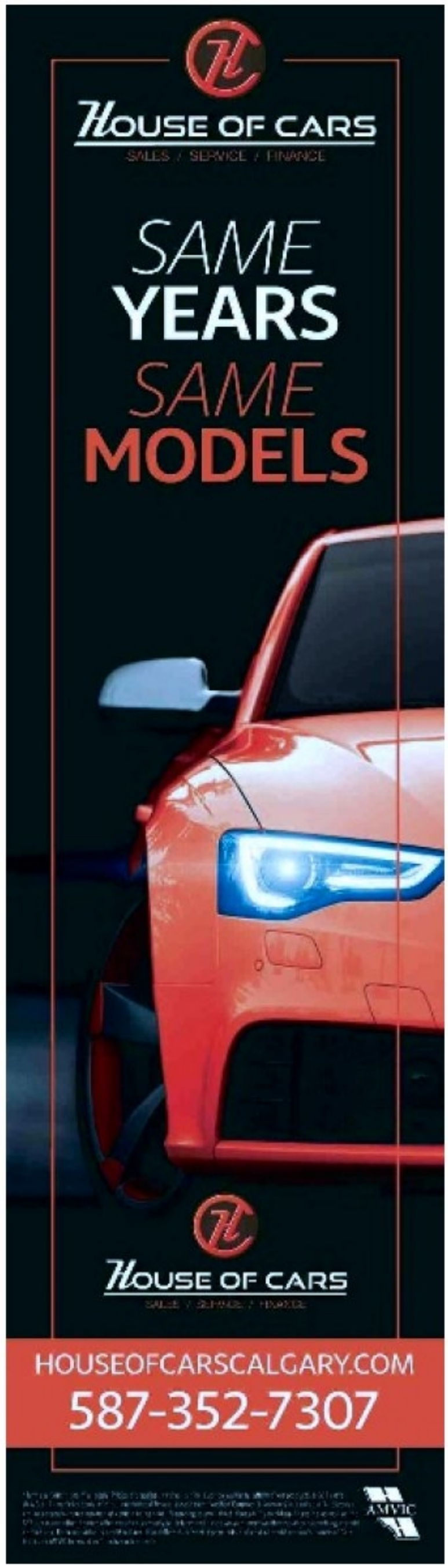
Post-Oscars, Spencer also has the release of The Shack. She plays God in the film adaptation of the novel by William P. Young; the book is about a father's renewed faith following his daughter's death.

The film caught backlash from some white Christians angered by the depiction of God as a curvaceous black woman. But Spencer said it's based on the perception of main character Mack Phillips (Sam Worthington).

"This young boy was abused and so the relationship with this one male that should've protected him was fractured. And then a man takes his daughter from him," said Spencer.

"The only woman to show him kindness was a woman who looked a lot like me. So that's why God manifested (in the flesh) and revealed himself to this young man in a way he would actually receive it." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **I think when we ask the public, the paying public, to support films that don't portray them on-screen, that's hypocrisy.**
> Octavia Spencer on diversity in film



Max Irons stars in Bitter Harvest, a film about two separated lovers set during the 1930s famine in Ukraine, which led to the deaths of millions of people. CONTRIBUTED

Chronicling long-hidden genocide

PERIOD DRAMA

Bitter Harvest tells story of 1930s famine in Ukraine

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Genocide may be largely associated with the terrible atrocities that took place in Armenia, Rwanda and during the Holocaust of the Second World War. But there is another historical horror that actor Max Irons is hoping to enlighten moviegoers about.

"It was new to me and it's new to most people from what I can tell," said the young star about Holodomor, the man-made Ukrainian famine at the centre of his latest film, Bitter Harvest.

"There was a concerted effort made by (Joseph) Stalin and the Soviet Union to keep what happened in Ukraine under wraps and as a result few people knew about it up until about '91. Even today, only about 24 countries acknowledge it for what it was — which is a state-sponsored genocide."

While the film (set in the 1930s) is an excavation of the neglected disaster that killed millions of people, the period drama about two separated lovers battling to reunite during the crisis also takes on a decidedly contemporary flavour in light of today's tension over Russian President Vladimir Putin's annexation of the Crimea region.

"I think the DNA of the country led to what happened in the '30s and again is leading to what's happened with Crimea and Ukraine today," said Irons. "It's a country that's divided politically, ethnically, linguistically, economically and also it's struggling for its sense of national identity (and) even now Putin refuses to acknowledge the Ukraine as its own sovereign state. So it's a country in the wrong place."

While candid on the complex issue, Irons is also quick to distance any direct connection between Bitter Harvest and the region's current politics. After all, he insists he's just an actor and "if it's a great story, it's a great story," regardless of the politics involved.

It would seem such insight might have been imparted from his parents — two people who know a thing or two about filmmaking. But the son of Oscar-winner Jeremy Irons and legendary Irish stage actress Sinéad Cusack insists that he's not necessarily relied on their fame for career success — or even their advice.

"They understand that everyone has to make their own way and make their own mistakes and have their own victories," said Irons. "They're quite nice like that — they just let me get on with it."

BEHIND THE SCENES

Fiction vs. non-fiction
"Films can be so many things from straight-up entertainment to slightly solemn and worthy things that teach people a thing or two," said Max Irons. "But I was attracted to this story because so few people know about it."

The Canadian connection
Bitter Harvest was produced by Toronto-based financier Ian Ihnatowycz, whose own family fled Ukraine in the 1940s.

"(He) feels, like many Ukrainians do, that this story needs to be told," said Irons.

"He's fortunate enough to have enough access to the kind of capital required to make a film like this and tell the story and he's gone ahead and done it, which is pretty great."

An actor by choice
"I never believed that thing about it (being) in your genes," said Irons about his famous filmmaking family. "It was only when I did it for the first time (and) it was just more engaging and more fun and exercising the parts of my brain that I wanted to exercise."

Japanese master finds a kindred spirit in Scorsese

Japanese actor and director Shinya Tsukamoto starred alongside Andrew Garfield in Martin Scorsese's Silence. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

Tsukamoto a prolific creator on both sides of the camera

Violence pulsates in Shinya Tsukamoto's early films, driving stories into nightmarish fantasies like in the award-winning 1989 Tetsuo, which ridicules middle-class conformity with a man-becomes-machine metamorphosis.

His more recent works still depict violence, though the Japanese director says the nature of the violence has changed — from whimsical cyberpunk horror to horrifying reality. That's why he identified so closely with Martin Scorsese's grueling epic, Silence, which portrays the persecution of Christians in samurai-era Japan. Tsukamoto plays Mokichi, a poor villager and martyr.

"In any era, regular people are kept down with violence. There is such sadness about why violence is perpetually involved," Tsukamoto said in Tokyo recently. "This same theme came at the same time."

Tsukamoto, 57, is a prolific actor as well as director, with a cameo as a scientist in the latest Japanese Godzilla film. He went to an audition for Silence, not counting on landing a role but hoping to get close to a director he has admired since he was a teenager. He has watched Taxi Driver dozens of times, and finds something new each time.

He was surprised and flattered when Scorsese recognized him right away and told him he admired Tsukamoto's films. In the audition, a dialogue scene, Scorsese played the part of the missionary to his Mokichi. It was so natural, easy and perfect, Tsukamoto recalled happily.

The film, which had an Oscar nomination for the cinematography by Rodrigo Prieto, is based on a novel by Shusaku Endo, inspired by the true history of torture used by the shogunate on European missionaries and their Japanese followers, purposely to degrade and discredit them.

Mokichi, a forlorn and ragged figure of angelic purity, dies a grisly but glorious martyr's death — drowning on a cross as the waves engulf his rail-thin body, again and again.

Some scenes of the crucifixion were shot on a beach, but close-ups of the drowning were shot in a pool with computer graphics for the landscape, and it required near-drowning exertion by Tsukamoto.

He was impressed with the uncompromising scale and artistic grandeur of Scorsese's movie-making, but also how positive Scorsese was toward his actors, being open to their ideas — while demanding take after take.

"He would say, 'Excellent,' get the actors motivated, and shoot again and again," he said.

Fortunately, Tsukamoto was already in character for the role. He had just finished his own 2014 movie, Fires on the Plain, a brutally solemn and grotesque tale about the Second World War, which he directed and starred in as a near-starving soldier.

> **In any era, regular people are kept down with violence.**
> Shinya Tsukamoto

He got the guidance of a professional Hollywood nutritionist to further lose weight to play Mokichi, ending up some 22 pounds (10 kilograms) under his usual weight.

Throughout Fires on the Plain, the soldiers are fighting nothing other than their own hunger. They fear each other as much as the enemy. The film carried stunning references to cannibalism, which some historians say really happened.

That kind of no-holds-barred storytelling is signature Tsukamoto. Over the decades, his scenes have abounded with squirming maggots, metallic rock-inspired banging, blood-sputtering beatings, dizzyingly jagged camerawork and masochistic but titillating erotica.

His Kafka-esque characters inhabit sterile concrete apartments, lost in winding alleys, escalators and stairways, all seemingly on the verge of collapsing, like a stage set, into another darker reality. And the language of his films juxtaposes the obsessive and deranged with the childlike and lyrical.

Maggie Lee, film critic for Variety, calls Tsukamoto "an eccentrically versatile and sometimes visionary director, who expanded international fandom for Japanese horror before they'd even heard of Sion Sono," referring to the director of Himizu and Cold Fish, who also has a reputation as subversive and fiercely independent.

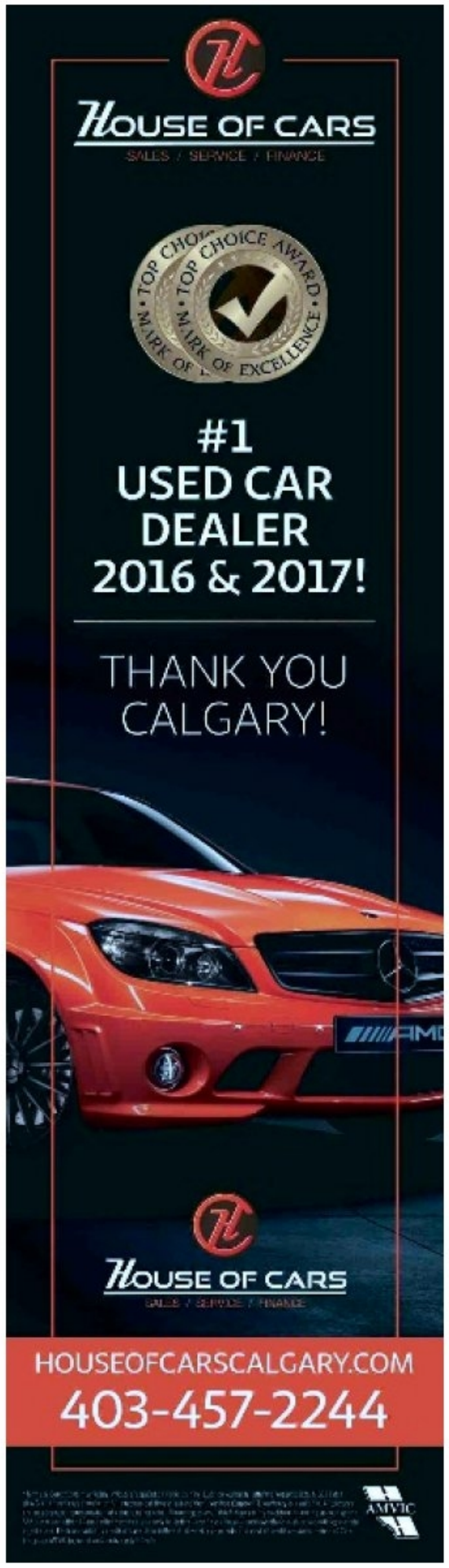
Tsukamoto shot to stardom with Tetsuo, which launched a prize-amassing career in what he dubs "cult entertainment," meaning that he strives for fun, along with the experimental.

Three years ago, he won the lifetime achievement award at the Festival du Nouveau Cinema at Montreal, which screened Fires on the Plain. The work is based on an anti-war novel by Shohei Ooka, and was made into a film in 1959, by Kon Ichikawa.

Tsukamoto had been planning to make the film for two decades but decided the time was now. He fears Japan, peaceful after its defeat in the Second World War, may be starting to forget the lessons of its past.

He has many ideas for his next movie, maybe a samurai film, a genre he has never made, maybe animation, or a film about childhood. "Those who must go to war are the children. And we fear for our children," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Teen angst, God and wedding woe

A little bit more about five movies that are being released this weekend

1 Before I Fall (Starring Zoey Deutch, Halston Sage, Cynthy Wu, Elena Kampouris, Logan Miller, Kian Lawley; Directed by Ry Russo-Young; 98 minutes; 14A)

Before I Fall might have been dismissed — and even forgiven — for falling into a Groundhog Day rut, since it deliberately goes in for a similar story of redemptive magic.

Who expects much from movies such as these, especially one targeted at teens? Yet this one avoids tedium and exceeds expectations.

At the risk of overstatement, a fairer film comparison might be Rashomon, for the many angles and perspectives Before I Fall provides on a single subject: a teen girl on the cusp of adulthood, with attendant life challenges both comic and tragic.

Director Ry Russo-Young (Nobody Walks) is no Kurosawa but she certainly knows her film classics, also working in sly reference to Blade Runner and The Shining. Maria Maggenti adapted her bittersweet screenplay from the popular young adult novel by Lauren Oliver.

It's "Cupid Day" at the Pacific Northwest high school of popular student Sam Kingston (Vampire Academy's Zoey Deutch). Sam plans to celebrate this pre-Valentine's Day occasion by partying with her fun-loving gal pals — Lindsay (Halston Sage), Ally (Cynthy Wu) and Elody (Medalion Rahimi) — while also losing her virginity with her erstwhile boyfriend Rob (Kian Lawley). Frozen out of the cool zone are earnest nerd Kent (Logan Miller), who has a secret crush on Sam, and school "psycho" Juliet (Elena Kampouris), who is bullied just for being different.

The day will actually turn out to be even more complicated than Sam planned. Something happens — she's not sure what exactly — that has her reliving Cupid Day over and over, but also with the power to make small and possibly significant changes.

"Don't go emo on us," somebody says, and thankfully the film doesn't. A fine actress, Deutch makes a compelling and empathetic protagonist, even as the story veers closer into the supernatural. Neither does it go overboard for the usual teen movie hijinks — the mood is frequently as dark as the lens of Michael Fimognari, who puts his horror film experience to good work.

2 Saigon Bodyguards (Starring Kim Ly, Thai Hoa; Co-written and directed by Ken Ochiai; 108 minutes.)

Like good Vietnamese cuisine, Saigon Bodyguards is pho fresh and hot.

Director Ken Ochiai delivers a fond homage to the Western buddy action/comedy, and while it's by no means perfect, it's still madcap fun with a cheeky sense of humour right down to such zingers as "What the phuc!"

Kim Ly and Thai Hoa play two bodyguards charged with protecting Henry, returning home from Harvard to take up the mantle of his recently deceased milk tycoon father.

When Henry is kidnapped by a villainous brother and sister, the partners find a doppelganger named Phuc to act as substitute until an all-important board meeting.

Kim, the eye-candy half of the partnership, bears a resemblance of sorts to American action star Dwayne Johnson right down to the mannerisms and toned body (though not quite of Rock-ian proportions).

Thai provides the comic relief and he's funny in a buffoonish way.

There's a hip Asian fusion soundtrack and Ochiai delivers some decent fight-scene action without ever taking things too seriously.

3 The Shack (Starring Sam Worthington, Octavia Spencer; Directed by Stuart Hazeldine; 132 minutes; PG)

Devout Christians will flock to The Shack. For the rest of us, it may require an act of faith.

"Who wouldn't be skeptical when a man claims to have spent an entire weekend with God in a shack?" goes the prologue. Who indeed?

Sam Worthington plays Mack, visited by a "great sadness" when his daughter is abducted during a camping trip and murdered at a tumbledown house in the woods.

A mysterious letter draws Mack back to the place where his faith has been

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so sorely tested where he meets God (played by Octavia Spencer), Jesus and a woman named Sarayu (the holy ghost possibly?). Worthington delivers a solid performance as the grieving dad and country music singer Tim McGraw, sporting a Christian cool beard, has a nice cameo as a sympathetic neighbour.
The story deals with a fundamental question: how to forgive a crime of such abominable proportions?
But at more than two hours, the film is too long and the storyline too faith-infused to be truly redemptive for a broader audience.

4 Table 19 (Starring Anna Kendrick, Lisa Kudrow, Craig Robertson, June Squibb; Directed by Jeffrey Blitz; 87 minutes; 14A)
Eloise (Anna Kendrick) shows up at a friend's wedding for reasons to be unwrapped later. The recently dumped girlfriend of the bride's brother, she lands with the "randoms" near the back of the room where, as one guest notes, you can smell the toilets.
Her tablemates include a squabbling couple, the bride's nanny, an awkward teenager and an ex-con relation (Stephen Merchant, a delight). As the reception progresses, complete with a cake in an unfortunate location and a scruffy dog that is never quite explained, Eloise's misfit accomplices soon have her back after we learn why she's at the wedding.
If director Jeffrey Blitz (Rocket Science) and story creators Jay and Mark Duplass had worked harder to heat up this lukewarm buffet dish of a film, Table 19 might have found a surer berth in the frothy wedding genre.
Instead, it feels a bit like an unfocused drunk-uncle speech; it's got a couple of good jokes but mostly you just wait it out to get to the inevitable sweet table at the end of the night.

5 Ballerina (Animation featuring the voices of Elle Fanning, Dane DeHaan, Maddie Ziegler, Carly Rae Jepsen; Directed by Eric Summer and Eric Warin. 90 minutes. G)
Small-town French orphans with big Paris dreams learn the unexpected cost of ambition in Ballerina, a Canada-France animation.
There's plenty of visual whimsy in the late-19th-century setting — the animators render a gorgeous Paris — while enthusiastic dance sequences and comic beats balance out melodrama.
Ballerina trips over its own feet occasionally, not sure what sort of tale it wants to tell. But the voice talents of Elle Fanning as aspiring ballerina Félicie and Dane DeHaan as her invention-designing pal Victor, help the characters seem less waxily artificial than computer-generated animation makes them appear.
Poppy tunes from Sia and Carly Rae Jepsen (who also voices Odette, a housemaid with a secret) weave throughout after Félicie and Victor escape their orphanage home to see what Paris can offer them. Independent Félicie longs to train as a dancer at the Paris Opera and Victor itches to get his latest invention aloft. He's determined to watch out for Félicie, especially when she has her head turned by a preening Russian.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RE-RELEASE

Best picture Moonlight back in theatres

Best-picture winner Moonlight is heading back into theatres in what will be its widest release yet.
Its distributor, A24, said the film will play in about 1,500 theatres this weekend across North America.
Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age drama scooped three Oscars in total last weekend — best picture, best supporting actor for Mahershala Ali and best adapted screenplay, which was shared by Jenkins and Tarell Alvin McCraney, author of In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue, on which the movie is based.

Mahershala Ali won an Oscar for his Moonlight role. CONTRIBUTED

Moonlight first opened in late October, and while it played in 585 theatres last weekend, it's already out on DVD and digital rental.
The film's long release never surpassed 1,104 screens. By comparison, most major wide-release films open on 3,000 or more screens.
As of this week, Moonlight has grossed $22.7 million in the U.S. and Canada and $5.3 million in other territories for a worldwide gross of $28 million, against a production budget of $1.5 million.
That makes the film one of the lowest grossing best-picture winners ever. The lowest is 2009's The Hurt Locker, which made $17 million, or about $19.4 million in today's dollars.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Following Gigi's journey to Gorgeous

Canadian YouTube star Gigi Gorgeous, right, with her partner, Nats Getty. INSTAGRAM/@NATSGETTY

DOCUMENTARY

Why nothing is off limits in Youtube star's transition tale

Canadian transgender YouTube star Gigi Lazzarato has been extremely candid in sharing the story of her male-to-female transition with her millions of subscribers.

So it's not surprising that the new documentary Gigi Gorgeous: This is Everything, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, leaves little unsaid or hidden as its 24-year-old star chronicles her "journey" from childhood, to coming out as gay, and her gender transition.

"That's why we entitled the film This is Everything, because . . . nothing is off limits," Lazzarato said the day after the premiere.

Born the middle of three boys, Gregory Lazzarato is introduced as an outgoing, frantically active kid from Mississauga, Ont., who was a championship diver as a teen. But he struggled with being bullied in high school, especially after starring in makeup-application tutorials on YouTube.

Told in chronological order, the first half of the film relies on video made by Lazzarato as a diary of experiences for friends and family. She also acts as narrator.

"When I was done with my transition I thought this would be a great movie," said Lazzarato, who knew she wanted a woman to "tell my story" and chose two-time Oscar-winning director Barbara Kopple, who made Harlan County, USA; Miss Sharon Jones! and Dixie Chicks: Shut Up & Sing.

"I got into a world where I never thought of Gigi as transgender. I just thought of her as Gigi and never wanted to say 'he' or ask her too many questions because I just felt she's who she is," said Kopple, who added "we should all be so lucky to have parents and brothers like Gigi does."

Indeed, the most touching moments in the film come courtesy of Lazzarato's family. Her brothers, and father David, are studies in how to be supportive, while Lazzarato talks about how devastated she was following the death of her mother, Judy, from cancer five years ago.

In one scene, David Lazzarato tenderly gives his woozy child a sponge bath as she recovers from breast-implant surgery.

Although he occasionally struggles with pronouns and seems taken aback when Lazzarato announces she has booked $14,000 worth of facial feminization surgery, he later says that "having Gigi happy is way more important than me having the old Greg."

> **I think I've always gotten my message across the strongest by telling my story and visually telling my story will ignite even more of a reaction.**
> Gigi Lazzarato

"I think my dad is definitely the star in my life," said Lazzarato, who attended the Sundance premiere dressed in a floor-length, crystal-embellished gown accompanied by friends, family and her partner, model and designer Nats Getty of the American oil family.

On her YouTube channel, Lazzarato speaks candidly to her more than 2.5 million subscribers in videos that are continually wrapped in a strong anti-bullying, be-yourself message.

"I'm really excited. I think I've always gotten my message across the strongest by telling my story and visually telling my story will ignite even more of a reaction from people," said Lazzarato of the film.

She wishes Caitlyn Jenner was around when she was transitioning and takes her role as an inspiration for a new generation seriously.

"I know I turned a lot of people's mindsets around just from my personality, people who might not have known transgender people, not been as supporting of transgender people or gay people," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A ferocious feud that stands the test of time

Susan Sarandon plays Bette Davis in new miniseries on the Hollywood icon's feud with fellow star Joan Crawford. CONTRIBUTED

MINISERIES

Iconic clash of Joan Crawford and Bette Davis still resonates

You might think an eight-part miniseries about screen legends Bette Davis and Joan Crawford butting heads and being fabulous would have little to say about modern times.

You'd be wrong.

Without soft-pedalling any of the fun and fabulousity of vintage Hollywood, Feud: Bette and Joan, which premieres on FX and FX Canada on Sunday at 10 p.m. EST, exposes a not-so-glitzy side of Tinseltown — while framing issues all too prevalent even now.

But to start with, all you really need to know is this: Feud recounts the epic rivalry between Davis and Crawford as they fractiously joined forces to co-star in the 1962 thriller What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?

The fur would fly.

Then, despite Baby Jane exploding as a box-office smash and entering the canon as a camp movie classic — or perhaps because of it — neither actress scored the comeback these Hollywood has-beens had been praying for in what was regarded as the twilight of their careers.

Note: The year this film was released, "over-the-hill" Crawford turned 58 and Davis was all of 54.

Thus does Bette and Joan set the scene for ageism, sexism and misogyny afflicting Hollywood — and, by implication, broader society.

Fortunately, two spectacular Oscar-winning actresses are on hand to resurrect Oscar winners Bette and Joan — respectively, Susan Sarandon (who, for the record, is 70) and Jessica Lange, 67.

But even as their great work yet again refutes the misconception that an actress, no matter how gifted, must inevitably age out, it's not as though these two stars haven't suffered for decades the same slights from the industry that Davis and Crawford endured.

"Not that much has changed," Lange stated recently. "I think a big part of this show is what Hollywood does to women as they age, which is just a microcosm of what happens to women generally as they age."

This is part of what spurred Ryan Murphy to create Feud; he's an executive producer, director and writer of the series.

"What was really interesting to explore was what a tragedy the last 15 years was in the lives of these women, and how they deserved so much more," said the prolific producer whose other credits include FX's American Horror Story franchise and last year's hit miniseries The People vs. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story.

Feud begins with Crawford approaching Davis — with whom she had tangled as they both rose and fell in the Hollywood firmament — with the project she believes can put them, even in their putative autumn years, back on top.

"If something's going to happen, we have to make it happen," says Crawford. "No one's looking to cast women our age. But together, they wouldn't dare say no. We need each other, Bette."

Feud boasts a superb supporting cast including Alfred Molina as Baby Jane director Robert Aldrich, Judy Davis as gossip columnist Hedda Hopper, Jackie Hoffman as Crawford's housekeeper Mamacita, and Alison Wright (the hapless Martha of The Americans) as Aldrich's assistant Pauline.

Guest stars include Catherine Zeta-Jones as fellow screen legend Olivia de Havilland, Sarah Paulson as Geraldine Page, Kathy Bates as Joan Blondell and Kiernan Shipka (Don Draper's daughter in Mad Men) as B.D., Bette Davis' daughter.

As studio titan Jack Warner, Stanley Tucci radiates the soulless spirit of Hollywood's ruling class: Money is what matters, no matter the cost.

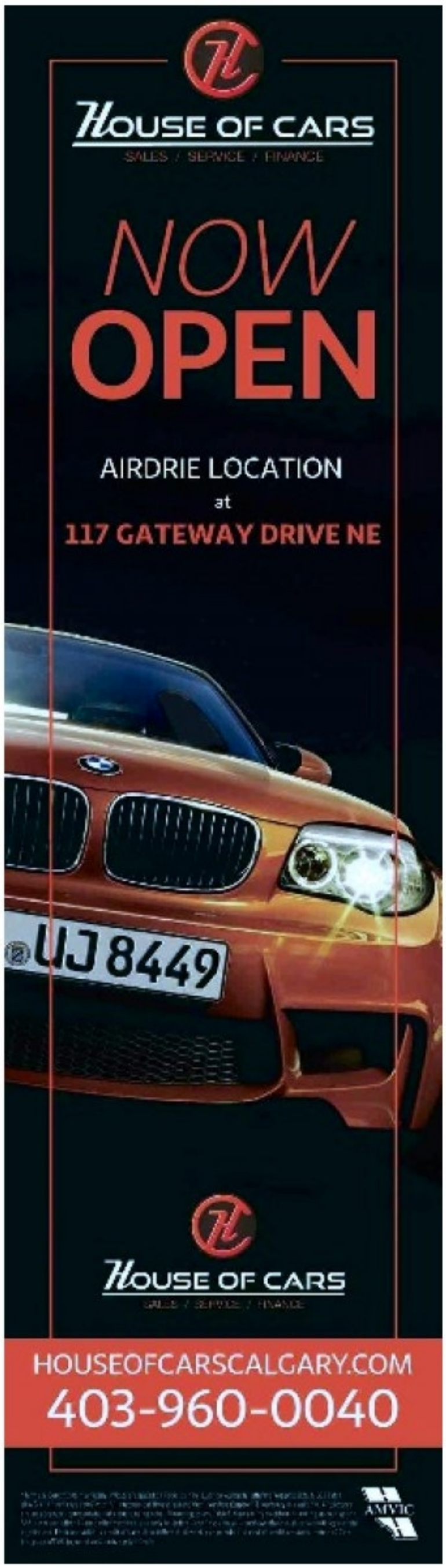
No wonder Warner isn't pleased to learn that Davis and Crawford have forged a united front as "Baby Jane" filming begins. He demands that false rumours be published to rekindle the feud and keep film fans titillated.

Pitting each woman against the other so each must fend for herself is "a raw display of the free market," Warner reasons from an office as big as an airplane hangar. "That's vigorous competition! That's the American way!"

That distant era is where Feud: Bette and Joan resides with exhilarating, splashy and poignant style.

But there's never a suggestion that, just because their tale is a half-century removed, it isn't still playing out in the current-day world.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Avoiding falls, Deutch is on the rise

INTERVIEW

Actress waves goodbye to her Disney days and grows up fast

Zoey Deutch plays a popular teenager forced to live te last day of her life over and over in Before I Fall. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

To say actress Zoey Deutch is a regular at Art's Deli is an understatement. Sporting an oversized sweatshirt, she breezes into the restaurant, a Studio City institution since 1957, and is immediately greeted with familiar hugs from the wait staff. One chimes in that he's known her since she was a baby.

"I do all my interviews here, I do all my meetings here, I do all my dates here," Deutch laughs. "There's a lot of ground covered at this deli."

Deutch grew up not too far away from the spot with her movie business parents. Her dad is Pretty in Pink director Howie Deutch and her mom, actress and '80s dream girl Lea Thompson. They fell for each other on the set of the high school rom-com Some Kind of Wonderful and have stayed together since.

At 22, Deutch, is looking to make a name for herself in the business separate from her insider parents. She's been acting professionally since age 15, transitioning from Disney shows to young adult genre fare, some of which are better regarded (Beautiful Creatures) than others (Vampire Academy), and now more adult roles. Earlier this year, she was paired opposite James Franco, 16 years her senior, in the studio comedy Why Him, and last year played the wise female lead in the otherwise testosterone fueled Richard Linklater indie Everybody Wants Some!!

Her latest, Before I Fall, is a dark Groundhog Day-like portrait of a popular teenager forced to relive the last day of her life over and over again. The film explores subjects like bullying, peer pressure and how to be a decent person in the world within conventions of a psychological thriller.

"She's the real thing," said Before I Fall director Ry Russo-Young. "The girl has serious chops."

Deutch is someone who admittedly likes to take control of things, even outside of the duties of "actor."

Before I Fall, for instance, was a $3 million movie that didn't have much of a wardrobe budget, so she found herself calling in favours to make sure they had all the necessary duplicates to work for the time loop construct.

Recently, too, she put on a public relations hat to tell the folks at a morning talk show where she was a guest that there'd be no running a clip from her new film of a car crash first thing in the morning, "right before people get in the car!"

She even ordered a cup of matzah ball soup for this reporter at Art's.

"It's the best!" she says as she transitions between myriad topics from what books she's excited about lately (she just finished The Feminist Porn Book and is about to start Rupi Kaur's Milk and Honey) to the magic of Christian Marclay's experimental video art installation The Clock. In her next film, Rebel in the Rye, she plays the popular socialite Oona O'Neill, who dated J.D. Salinger and eventually married Charlie Chaplin and got to affect a mid-Atlantic accent a la Katharine Hepburn (Deutch's "queen idol of the universe").

Deutch is interested in everything and everyone. She skipped out on college to focus on acting, but packs her free time with extracurricular pursuits. She reads voraciously, studies with a political science tutor (the current focus is on constitutional law) and even takes art classes at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

She has taken a vested interest in politics and feminist causes, like reproductive rights, excitedly lifting up her sweatshirt to reveal a T-shirt underneath with an image of female anatomy and a gun with the words that the former is "more controlled" than the latter. Deutch found the shirt at a local bookstore and bought some for all of her friends.

"They're like, 'what's that?"' Deutch said. "I'm like, 'that's your uterus."'

Speaking out on causes is something she feels a responsibility to do.

"There are privileges in my life, inherently, because of my job and that I'm white. I have these things that are completely out of my control and if I don't use these things to raise awareness for people who don't, then that's lame," she said.

But of course the primary focus is acting, and she's in it for the long haul. Deutch resents the moniker "it girl" for the temporality it implies.

"It's OK, call me whatever you want, but I'm here forever whether you like it or not. I love what I do and in whatever capacity I can. I have no facade. No delusions of grandeur of how one's path goes. I know this is an up and down crazy journey and I'm prepared and willing to go on," she said.

"I want to do a Western! I want to do a musical I want to do a remake of 'Venus in Fur.' I want to do everything. And I will."

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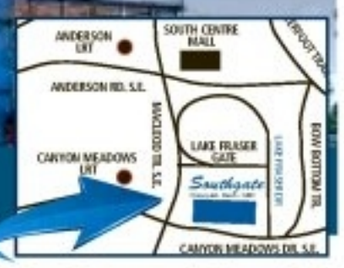

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Like a little bird facing big waves

OSCARS

Piper animator reflects on winning for animated short

Alan Barillaro says he's still unpacking the events surrounding his Oscar win on Sunday for his animated short Piper.

From watching his parents proudly walk the red carpet with him and his wife, to witnessing the best-picture fiasco, and meeting his Canadian heroes, it was certainly an unforgettable night for the father of three.

"To see my parents walk down the red carpet was by far worth everything," said Barillaro during a phone interview from California, adding his parents helped foster his love of film while growing up in the Niagara Falls, Ont., community of Chippawa, as well as Markham, Ont.

The six-minute Piper, about a baby bird facing her fear of ocean waves with her mother on a beach, screened before Finding Dory, which was 2016's top-grossing film.

Barillaro said he was a bundle of nerves throughout the Oscars. When he heard his name announced as the best animated short winner, along with producer Marc Sondheimer, his mind went blank. He was brought back to reality when his wife squeezed him hard.

"It felt a little like Piper was an autobiographical story at that moment, of facing your fears," he said.

Barillaro thanked his family during his acceptance speech, including his "three little pipers" — his young children, who were watching from their home in Alameda County, Calif.

"I felt like if I can talk to them, maybe I won't be so scared to be onstage," he said, adding the best moment of the experience came once he'd sat back down.

"I get back to my seat … beside my wife and she shows me a video that my sister sent of all the kids watching the nomination and winning and just screaming. That just made it really special."

Barillaro and his wife attended the post-Oscars Governors Ball and Vanity Fair party.

"I went right for the Canadian heroes — I went to Eugene Levy and (Catherine) O'Hara," he said.

"It was nice that they had seen the picture, and Eugene Levy of course worked on Finding Dory.

"It's one of those moments where you can never imagine watching SCTV as a kid that Eugene Levy, someone you adore, might actually like something you make one day."

Barillaro, who previously contributed to some of Pixar's biggest hits, including A Bug's Life, Monsters, Inc. and WALL-E, will next work on The Incredibles 2.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian animator Alan Barillaro made Piper, a six-minute film about a baby bird facing her fear of ocean waves with her mother on a beach. COURTESY PIXAR/DEBORAH COLEMAN

Krauss album shaped by road trips

MUSIC

Windy City a collection of 10 classic country covers

Alison Krauss has a surprising rule about road trips: The driver does not command the stereo.

"Whenever I have young people in the car, they're always in control of the music," said Krauss, who has more Grammy Awards than any other woman. "It's like sharing yourself."

That rule she learned from her very patient father, who once let her listen to the LP Cold on the Shoulder by Tony Rice for 13 hours straight during a road trip when she was a dreamy pre-teen staring out the window.

"He never said a word about it. He never complained," she said. "He knew something was going on. There was no judgment. There was no judgment passed on that I shouldn't have been loving something that much."

Krauss has passed that open-minded lesson to the next generation. Her son, Sam, has inherited her good ear and has over the years introduced her to such bands as Snow Patrol and Phoenix.

"As soon as he showed up, he was in charge of the music in the car," she said, laughing. "When we deny what young people are listening to, we're really denying a big part of them. There's something about it that's speaking to them."

Krauss re-emerges this month with Windy City, her first solo album since 1999, a collection of 10 classic country covers that was shaped — not surprisingly — by road trips with her son at night through Nashville, Tennessee.

After she and songwriter-producer Buddy Cannon had whittled down the final list to songs by such artists as Willie Nelson, Bill Monroe, Brenda Lee and the Osborne Brothers, Krauss and 17-year-old Sam drove around listening to the originals.

"He goes, 'Oh, boy. Mom, I don't think you better touch those Brenda Lee songs.' I was like, 'Yeah, you think?' He goes, 'Whoa. Those are so good,"' said Krauss, 45, laughing. "I'm like, 'Thank you, honey."'

Country music singer Alison Krauss has more Grammy awards than any other woman. She is promoting Windy City, her first solo album since 1999. AMY SUSSMAN/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Krauss thankfully overruled him, recording both Lee's Losing You and All Alone Am I for the new album, which critics have warmly embraced. Entertainment Weekly said the CD "enforces her legacy as one of American music's standout talents," while The Associated Press' only quibble was the album was too short.

Cannon came away deeply impressed by Krauss' skill as one of country's best interpreters. "I've worked with other people who are real critical about the songs that they pick, but she's different. She's just a different animal," he said. "I can't say I've worked with anybody who, from my perception, analyzes the song as much as she does."

The album's release was delayed as Krauss dealt with dysphonia, a condition in which stress makes her throat muscles close. "It's like you're singing out of the end of a straw," she said.

Some of the songs for the album she chose have deep resonance — the title track was the first song she heard the Cox Family sing when she met them — and some were relatively new to her, like Roger Miller's River in the Rain from the musical Big River.

"It has to be real. I have to see the story and I have to feel like it's me telling the story," she said. "The only thing that we talked about was I said, 'I'd like to do songs that are older than me.' And then, of course, we realized how old I was."

One of the tunes — Dream of Me — had a happy story. As she and Cannon explored options, she told him there was a song she always wanted to do. "I just said, 'It's called Dream of Me." In my mind, I was singing the chorus and I started to look for it and he goes, Dream of Me? Well, I wrote that." (Cannon and his daughter sing harmony on the cover.)

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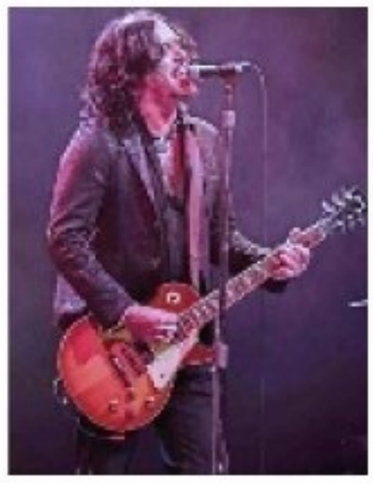
TOURING

Grunge nostalgia

Canada's '90s rockers having a rebirth, get back on road



I had downtime this winter. It was something (my manager and) I had talked about for a long time.
Matthew Good on his new EP

Mid-90s Canadian rock and grunge is having a resurgence as fans get nostalgic for the soundtrack of their youth and days at Edgefest (above); it has sparked the likes of Tea Party (top right) and Matthew Good to get back on the road. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It was no small feat that Canadian rock band the Tea Party headlined the 1998 edition of Edgefest. Summer music festivals live and die by their headliners, making the fact that the Windsor trio took top billing on the national tour over international stars like Green Day and Foo Fighters all the more impressive.

"The Canadian music industry at the time (was) truly championing rock bands," recalls Tea Party drummer Jeff Burrows. "It was a very cool time."

Canadian music had always been thought of as separate and, frankly, lesser. But by the mid-'90s, Canadian rock bands were competing with their American counterparts for album sales and radio play allowing acts like Tea Party, Matthew Good and Age of Electric to carve out substantial careers in Canada even as they were mostly ignored south of the border.

"We wanted music that reflected our needs, wants, wishes, demands and fears," says Alan Cross, radio broadcaster and creator of The Ongoing History of New Music show on Edge 102. "And we got it."

Today, artists from this era are coming out of the woodwork to celebrate the era and the records that made it (and them). Transmission, Tea Party's double-platinum third album including the hit Temptation, turns 20 this summer and the band members are embarking on an anniversary tour that will see them play the record in its entirety.

They're not the only '90s Canadian rockers hitting the cold Canadian road this winter. Vancouver's Matthew Good is revisiting Beautiful Midnight, the 1999 behemoth that housed Load Me Up and Hello Time Bomb, with a complete-album tour and a new EP, I Miss New Wave, which reworks several tracks from the album.

Age of Electric is reissuing an expanded edition of Make a Pest a Pet, a record that included the infectious Remote Control, on vinyl this month with a tour to follow.

Add in Rusty, the Killjoys, Philosopher Kings and even cartoon pop-stars Prozzäk, who have all resurfaced in the past few months to play or announce gigs, and the local 2017 concert calendar looks more like 1997.

"It feels like you could put that whole Edgefest lineup back together today," jokes Age of Electric singer-guitarist Todd Kerns.

Nostalgia is no doubt a driving force of this resurgence, says Cross. "Right now we're in the sweet spot for that renaissance of Canadian bands who came through in the 1990s."

Twenty-plus years after the fact, history is currently sorting the '90s alt-rock revolution into winners and losers: those whose music lives on and those relegated as relics of a forgotten era. Bands like Pearl Jam, Weezer and Radiohead are becoming the new classic rock, their generation's the Who, the Cars and Pink Floyd.

"For kids who grew up in that era, '90s Canadian music is peppered in with Silverchair, Bush and Foo Fighters," says Kerns. That makes Our Lady Peace, I Mother Earth and Big Sugar the new Bachman Turner Overdrive, April Wine and Max Webster. "We have this whole other chapter of our musical dialogue that just doesn't exist if you didn't grow up in Canada."

But nostalgia isn't the only driver of this trend. Evaporating album sales ensure that, with few exceptions, legacy artists can no longer rest on their laurels (or royalties). "People aren't buying music the way they used to," says Cross, who calls albums "a calling card" for bands who now make the vast majority of their money through touring. "The fondness that these groups still foster amongst their fans, it's an opportunity to go out and still make some decent money."

Matthew Good, never one to mince words, described the new EP and Beautiful Midnight tour as "a promotional thing" while speaking with The Canadian Press in November.

Unlike his '90s contemporaries, Good has managed to remain in the Canadian rock spotlight, releasing a string of solo albums. He credits ditching expectations through "the combination of old and new music" as the key to sustaining a multi-decade career. "Since 2001, I've been able to do whatever I want."

He and the Tea Party are both set to record new albums in the coming months, while Age of Electric is dropping an EP of new music the same day as its vinyl reissue is released.

All emphasized that revisiting the past doesn't mean that you've got nothing to offer in the present.

"The day you feel that what you've done is better than anything that you can do," says Kerns, "you're in real trouble."

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Gossip DIGEST

FILM
Houston, Gottfried docs debut at New York festival
Documentaries about Whitney Houston, Gilbert Gottfried, Elian Gonzalez and Frank Serpico will premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival.

The New York festival announced 82 of the 98 features that will play in this year's slightly slimmed-down lineup.

Among the entries are Gilbert, Neil Berkeley's documentary about the comedian; Elian, the Alex Gibney-produced documentary about the famous Cuban boy; and the Houston documentary, Whitney: Can I Be Me.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TELEVISION
Chappelle returns with Netflix specials
Comedian Dave Chappelle is headed back to TV with his first concert specials in a dozen years — two of them. Both premiere March 21, exclusively on Netflix.

The hour-long specials are from his personal vault. Dave Chappelle: The Age of Spin was filmed at The Palladium in Los Angeles in March 2016. Dave Chappelle: Deep in the Heart of Texas was filmed at the Moody Theater in Austin in April 2015.

He's currently on the road in preparation for a third Netflix special.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RELATIONSHIPS
Bloom, Perry break for some 'respectful, loving space'
Pop star Katy Perry and actor Orlando Bloom are breaking up after about a year together.

Representatives for Perry and Bloom released a statement Wednesday saying the couple "are taking respectful, loving space at this time."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OSCARS ACCOUNTANTS BEHIND BEST PICTURE FLUB GET SECURITY DETAIL A spokeswoman for the PwC auditing firm says the company has hired protection for the two accountants responsible for the best-picture error at the Oscars. The two accountants, Brian Cullinan and Martha Ruiz, were dismissed by the film academy for mishandling the winners' envelopes. PwC has taken responsibility for the error that led to La La Land being announced as the recipient when Moonlight was the actual winner. CHRISTOPHER POLK/GETTY IMAGES

COURT

Keep Polanski testimony sealed: Lawyer

Prosecutors on Wednesday urged a judge to reject Roman Polanski's effort to unseal testimony in his long-running sex with a minor case unless the fugitive director returns to a Los Angeles courtroom.

The filing argues that Polanski remains a fugitive and other judges have already ruled to keep the testimony sealed based on requests by former lawyers for the Oscar winner.

Polanski's attorney filed the motion last month seeking to unseal the testimony of the first prosecutor who handled his 1977 unlawful sex with a minor case.

Polanski's lawyer Harland Braun has said the testimony could be crucial in resolving the case and getting Polanski to return for sentencing if he has assurances he won't have to do additional time behind bars.

A hearing in the case is set for March 20.

The director fled to France in 1978 on the eve of sentencing when the now-deceased judge in the case suggested in private remarks that he would renege on a plea bargain and sentencing agreement.

Polanski's travel has since been restricted to France, Poland and Switzerland. Authorities in Poland and Switzerland have rejected efforts to return Polanski to the United States in recent years.

"The defendant has many options before him if he returns" to Los Angeles, Deputy District Attorney Michele Hanisee wrote in the Wednesday filing. She stated Polanski could argue for time served, appeal previous rulings or withdraw his guilty plea and go to trial.

"What he cannot do is dictate outcomes from afar while insulating himself from any potential adverse consequence," she wrote. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Say hello to Moore the merrier

INTERVIEW

Star relishing TV successes, just don't ask for any spoilers

Mandy Moore knows the fate of Jack on This Is Us but fans will have to wait much longer to find out.

"There will be a bit of a cliffhanger finale but you're not going to find out about Jack this season. Nope," the ever-affable Moore said during a visit to Toronto this week.

The hit NBC family drama — which airs on CTV on Tuesdays — is approaching its season finale on March 14 with a big question hanging over what happened to Milo Ventimiglia's character, Jack. He's the family patriarch alongside Moore's character, Rebecca.

Their story unfolds in various timelines. In scenes set in the past, we see the couple raising their twins and their adopted African-American child. In the present, Jack isn't around but we do see Rebecca as well as their children, played by Sterling K. Brown, Justin Hartley and Chrissy Metz.

Brown's character is grappling with drama over his birth father, while Hartley's character is trying to sustain an acting career and Metz's is struggling with her weight.

"I think the show does a great job of touching on issues that not every network television show would tackle, whether it's race relations, whether it's body image, panic attacks," said Moore.

In This is Us, we see Mandy Moore playing a family matriarch, who with her husband is raising their twins and their adopted African-American child. CONTRIBUTED

The tear-jerker show, which was created by Dan Fogelman, has already been renewed for two more seasons.

Moore said it's activated her creative life "all over again."

"It's really just the dreamiest job I've ever had, the best job I've ever had," said the former pop star, who recently got a Golden Globe nomination for playing Rebecca.

"The opportunity to play a character from 23 to 66 and every bit and chapter of her life in-between, it's just the opportunity of a lifetime."

To play the older, present-day Rebecca, the 32-year-old Moore has to sit in a makeup chair for hours.

"I own that process now," said Moore. "I'm fine to have those couple of hours to myself and help out with blow drying and holding the mirror up.

"I want to be a part of it so I don't go completely crazy."

Another source of pleasure on the show: getting to flex the vocal chops she's displayed since the start of her career, when she had hits including Candy and I Wanna Be with You.

"It's fun to have music back in the fold again," said Moore, who also worked with Fogelman on the animated film Tangled.

As Moore's star rises once again, so too are the fortunes of a choreographer who shares her name — which has led to some confusion on social media.

Mandy Moore, the famed choreographer, has made many headlines lately for her work on La La Land.

"Poor Mandy Moore! Well, not poor Mandy Moore — she choreographed an Oscar-winning movie — but she is phenomenally talented," Moore said with a laugh.

"I just feel bad for any undue credit that comes my way and not her way for what she deserves. But she's obviously unbelievably talented. We have yet to meet each other. Hopefully our paths will cross one of these days.

"We have exchanged messages on Twitter. It's just so funny. There are two of us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TV BRIEFS

Ellen back in prime time with 'huge' game show

Ellen DeGeneres is coming back to prime time, this time for fun and games.

NBC said Thursday it has ordered six episodes of an hour-long show hosted and produced by DeGeneres. It will feature "supersized" versions of games played on her daytime talk show.

The new show, titled Ellen's Game of Games, will pull contestants from the audience and give one a chance to win what NBC described as a "huge" cash prize.

In a statement, DeGeneres promised "gigantic sets" and hilarious games.

Before her successful move to daytime, DeGeneres starred in the prime-time sitcoms Ellen and The Ellen Show.

She's also become a busy producer, with shows including Little Big Shots and its upcoming spin-off, Little Big Shots: Forever Young.

A debut date for Ellen's Game of Games wasn't announced.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ellen DeGeneres. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mandel savours home comforts

INTERVIEW

Screen Awards host checks in on Canadian productions

Howie Mandel has sung the praises of Canadian TV, including Orphan Black and Schitt's Creek. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CONTRIBUTED

Howie Mandel has been doing his research.

Ahead of his hosting gig at the Canadian Screen Awards on March 12, the Toronto-born, U.S.-based America's Got Talent judge says he's been binge-watching nominated series and films, including Orphan Black, Kim's Convenience, Schitt's Creek, Vikings and Race.

His assessment of the Canadian film and TV scene?

"I believe that we are probably the most underrated country in as far as what we're able to produce and what happens in our industry," the Emmy-nominated comedy star said in a recent phone interview from Los Angeles.

"I'm amazed that it's not more well-known worldwide. Maybe it's just that what we have in creativity we lack in the entrepreneurial spirit of getting it out there," he added.

"Kim's Convenience would work anywhere, Schitt's Creek is pulling in numbers (in the U.S.) on Pop TV. Orphan Black is a hit, it's on American television. I don't think that people know it's a Canadian show."

Mandel got his start in standup comedy in Toronto before moving to Los Angeles, where his breakthrough role came as Dr. Wayne Fiscus on the 1980s TV medical drama St. Elsewhere.

At the time, such a move was necessary, he said.

"I resented leaving," said Mandel, creator of the hit children's series Bobby's World.

"Once I made the decision that this is what I wanted to do for a career and for my life, I realized it's really hard to have a comparable career financially (in Canada)."

Mandel said he's since "come back for anything and everything that you'll have me for." In 2007, for instance, he hosted Deal or No Deal Canada — a spinoff of the American version he also starred on — in Toronto.

> **Maybe it's just that what we have in creativity we lack in the entrepreneurial spirit.**
> Howie Mandel

"I ring the bell loud and clear every time I'm on something, that I was born and raised in Canada and I'm Canadian," said Mandel.

"If somebody mentions somebody (like) Ryan Reynolds — 'He's Canadian!' I say that very loud so that maybe people will realize that and maybe Canada will start doing things and making an effort and spending money to become much more universally renowned and saleable than they are."

Mandel does see a benefit in the country's humility.

"There's something nice about making great product and having humility and being quiet about it," he said. "But that quietness is why, even at this point, if I moved up to Toronto where I'm from — I would probably make a fraction of what I make down here."

The leading film nominee for this year's Canadian Screen Awards is Montreal director Xavier Dolan's It's Only the End of the World with nine nods. On the TV side, Orphan Black leads with 14 nominations.

Mandel said he was "thrilled" to host and may deliver "some sort of grandiose opening sequence" and shoot some pre-taped bits for the show in Los Angeles

He plans to take a "free-flow" approach to the gig and keep the focus on the nominees and the Canadian screen industry in general.

"This is certainly not the Howie Mandel show," he said.

"I think of it like a giant party that we throw for the Canadian industry and I said you could have it in my house. So I'm hosting a party but the party is about them."

The Canadian Screen Awards will air on CBC from Toronto's Sony Centre for the Performing Arts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Washington D.C.'s cherry blossoms expected to peak in two weeks

Lessons from a family gap year

ADVENTURE

Parents stick to epic plan, even when the kids are fussy

Riding camels in northern Morocco, from left: husband Scott Morson, kids Matthew and Alexandra, and Yvette Duffy. Right: Lisa Kisch and husband Quillan Nagel with daughters Audrey, centre, and Lily, right, at the San Buenaventura Church in Homun, Mexico. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY YVETTE DUFFY/LISA KISCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yvette Duffy's adventure of a lifetime began with years of meticulous planning.

The goal was to visit 16 countries in 10 months — an around-the-world ramble in which she and her husband would introduce their 10- and 13-year-old kids to an array of cultures, traditions and invaluable life lessons.

A family gap year, or even a months-long jaunt, can seem like an impossible dream for average Canadians. But many figure out a way, despite significant hurdles: finances, schooling, work obligations and of course, the kids' willingness to go along.

Before their trip, Duffy and her husband curtailed spending and drafted a list of countries to visit. Duffy deferred 20 per cent of her teacher's salary for four years so they could afford a year-long leave. They crunched the numbers again and again and tweaked their list of dream destinations.

As the trip approached, they sold their car and arranged a home swap for one of the costliest legs of the trip — three weeks in the south of France.

School was also an issue, since their son would essentially skip Grade 5 while their daughter would ditch Grade 8. So Duffy downloaded outlines of their academic requirements and vowed to homeschool on the road.

It was a risky plan, Duffy acknowledges, but the payoff was huge. Several months after returning to Toronto, she points to incredible memories, a tighter family bond, and confident kids.

"Their self-esteem definitely increased, their sense of independence increased, their knowledge of the world definitely grew," Duffy says of the impact of visiting locales including Iceland, northern Africa, the Himalayas, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

"They can now speak about places and issues in the world with more confidence and actually recognize the challenges that are facing the world around poverty, human rights, climate change."

Toronto mom Lisa Kisch says she indulged a long-held dream to see the world after her mother suddenly fell ill with terminal cancer.

Eager to distract herself from grief, Kisch dove into a plan to take her husband and two daughters on a seven-month jaunt to Mexico, the Virgin Islands, England, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Israel, Italy and Croatia.

Reached at their first stop in Merida, Mexico earlier this year, Kisch rattled off a list of tips and tricks that could actually keep her finances in the black, thanks to a healthy passive income.

She's renting out their Toronto home and also found tenants for their cottage. Her online business as a network marketer for a beauty products company also promises a continued source of income.

Living and accommodation expenses should drop — depending on where they travel — and more savings come from reduced home and car insurance. Plus they won't be on the hook for the regular stream of birthday party gifts for her daughters' friends, she jokes.

Kisch used a broker to score seven months of health insurance for the whole family for $1,000 and will curb travel costs by hitting Europe in May before high-season starts. More affordable destinations like Portugal will alternate with pricier stops, like London.

While the budget fell into place, she hadn't anticipated how hard the move would be on her eight- and 10-year-old girls, who were sad to leave friends. Several days into the trip they were still crying and she admits to being plagued by mom-guilt.

"It did surprise me that after five or six days they were still wishing they were home," says Kisch."And then I realized: You know what? You had a vision for this trip from the beginning for a reason and just keep that vision even while your kids are going through those ups and downs because ultimately that's what they're really going to learn from."

Lingering in one place allows for some semblance of a normal routine, she adds. Their mornings generally consist of schoolwork, an excursion and then lunch.

Sightseeing is a leisurely jaunt, not the frenzied rush that can mar shorter trips, she says.

"If you have to see absolutely everything, they're going to be miserable, you're going to be miserable, they're not going to remember it anyway.

"The things they remember are: 'Remember when we walked to that place and we saw that shop and there was the lady with the flowers?'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOW THEY DID IT

The straight logistics, or how to order pizza in any language

Living abroad temporarily can seem out of reach for families. Here's a look at how two Canadian families managed:

Family: Yvette Duffy, her husband and two kids, ages 10 and 13
Home: Toronto
Travel dates: Sept. 7, 2015 to mid-June 2016
Where they went: Iceland, France, Spain, Morocco, Egypt, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Nepal, Turkey, Greece, Italy, England and Scotland.
How they handled school: Online sites were key for math — mostly IXL and the Khan Academy, but also the University of Waterloo's Problem of the Week. Duffy downloaded ebooks and audio books related to each locale. Kids blogged about things like blood cells and oxygen levels in Nepal, and "impossible loads" in Vietnam where motorcycles routinely carry massive cargo. Upon return, the kids went to a French summer camp before resuming studies at their French immersion school.
The cost: They sold their car, lived frugally and arranged a home swap. For four years, Duffy deferred 20 per cent of her salary. They offset hefty airfare costs by using a travel app that scoured for deals.
Travel tip: Keep baggage light. "Sometimes (the kids) wanted things. And then the question was: 'Are you willing to carry that for the remainder of the trip?' And it always came down to: 'No.'"

Family: Lisa Kisch, her husband and two kids, ages eight and 10
Home: Toronto
Travel dates: Jan. 3, 2017 to July 2017
Where they went: Mexico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, England, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Israel, Italy and Croatia.
How they handled school: Kisch discussed pulling her kids out of Grades 3 and 5 with teachers, who were very supportive. But her school board doesn't provide materials for home schooling. Kisch loaded e-readers with library books, and bought math workbooks.
Income: Rental income from their home and a cottage covers both mortgages and provides about $2,500 a month extra. Plus, Lisa continues to work online as a network marketing professional and receives a salary.
The cost: Mexico provided affordable comfort — a large two-bedroom house with pool in Merida for $2,500 a month. Uber rides, groceries and restaurants were cheap.

Day-to-day costs rose in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, but over the course of the trip, Kisch expects they'll spend about as much as they would living in Toronto.
Travel tip: Quell tantrums by picky eaters with help from food ordering apps that do the translating for you. "The day I got here I tried to order pizza ... and it was an epic fail," Kisch recalls of her nascent Spanish-speaking skills.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Malta emerging from Catholic rule

LGBTQ

A social revolution in the former British colony

Since introducing gay marriage in 2014, Malta has been expanding the rights of its LGBTQ community. ISTOCK/GETTY

At age 24, Alex Mangion became Malta's first transgender politician when he won a local office on the conservative Nationalists' ticket, a striking combination in a country that until recently had been a last bastion in western Europe of social norms largely dictated by the Catholic church.

The Nationalist Party recruited Mangion to run for town council with an eye toward grooming him as a candidate for next year's Parliamentary election. The party, which governed Malta for a quarter-century, hopes to reverse its stinging, landslide 2013 loss to socialist archrivals who returned to power with an agenda heavy on LGBTQ rights.

Mangion, now 26, has notched a personal achievement as well: he was the first person in Malta to be able to update the gender on his official documents without undergoing surgery or hormone treatment thanks to the passage of comprehensive transgender rights legislation. In 2015, the Nationalists sided with the socialist Labor Party to ensure unanimous approval of the bill.

Other nations are taking note of Malta's remarkably rapid transformation from conservative outpost — divorce remained illegal in the country until 2011 — to increasingly liberal standard-bearer.

"There are countries which we had looked up to 'til now and that are said to be very progressive," Helena Dalli, Malta's minister for civil liberties, said in an interview Wednesday evening. "But they are asking us now, such as Belgium for instance, whether they can take our model of law, the gender-identity law, so they can model their own law on ours."

The Nationalists are a microcosm of the evolution underway in Malta, an island nation of some 420,000 people where generations of gay people lived undercover to avoid moral judgment.

To Mangion's dismay, his party abstained from voting on a 2014 civil unions law because of objections to allowing same-sex couples to adopt children. Then, two months ago, Malta became the first European nation to ban gay conversion therapy.

The ban, which carries fines as high as 10,000 euros and jail terms of up to one year for offenders, won accolades from Maltese psychologists treating clients suffering under the weight of social norms that regarded homosexuality as sinful.

Kyle Knight, a New York-based researcher for Human Rights Watch, said that what's particularly admirable about Malta's LGBTQ rights laws is "not just the result as much as the process" that led to their creation.

Members of the LGBTQ community, other advocates and a local human rights group served on a council set up in 2013 to advise the government. Legislation was accompanied by directives that covered how LGBTQ people in prison should be treated and how schools should deal with bullying of transgender or gay students.

When Knight was recently asked in Japan how schools should handle anti-LGBTQ bullying, "We copied and pasted these (Maltese) guidance documents and we said, 'Look, this is how you do it,'" he recalled.

Once Malta legalized civil unions for same-sex couples, Steve and Manuel Aquilina had a wedding after two decades as a couple.

Steve Aquilina, who produces Manuel's popular cooking programs on Maltese TV, realized how far LGBTQ rights had come while vacationing. They stepped up to the passport control booth in Italy, another country influenced by Catholic teachings.

The official behind the glass, noting the same last names, asked if the two men were brothers. When they explained they were married, Aquilina recalled, the official told them, "You are lucky."

Aroma Kitchen is beamed into Maltese homes when families are sitting down for dinner. While doing his part to improve a national cuisine that leans more toward overcooked fish and soggy potatoes, he's cutting a role as a public gay figure.

"They're accepted like everyone else," said Victor Anastasi, a dairy consultant who appeared on the Tuesday episode to promote Maltese milk. "We're a Catholic country. But eventually the church has to come to terms" with a changing society.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVEL NOTES **L.A.'S TINY RAILWAY RE-OPENING, GRACELAND GROWING AND A U.K. FOOD FESTIVAL COMING TO CANADA**

L.A.'s historic little railway returning

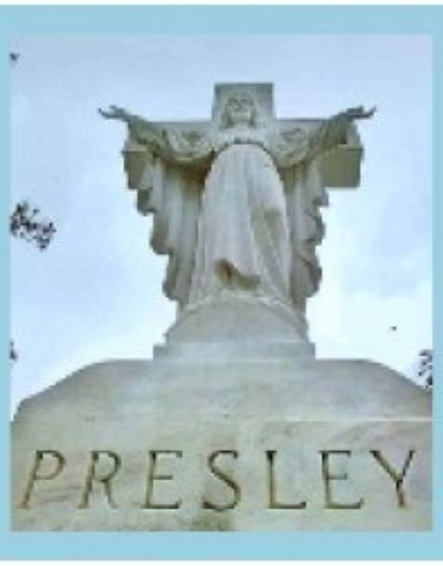
Angels Flight, L.A.'s beloved little railroad, had a cameo in La La Land and now it's almost ready for a close-up. The funicular that took people 298 feet up and down Bunker Hill was closed in 2013 after a series of safety problems.

Mayor Eric Garcetti said issues are being resolved and the railroad's antique wooden cars should be back in service by Labour Day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rising in Graceland

A $45 million entertainment complex featuring exhibits and restaurants it set to open at Graceland in Memphis, Tenn.

The 200,000-square-foot complex is located across the street from Elvis Presley's longtime home. Part of a $140 million expansion, which includes a 450-room hotel. It will replace aging buildings that have housed Presley-related exhibits for years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Canadian edition of U.K.'s Big Feastival

A food and music festival by British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver is coming to Canada in August.

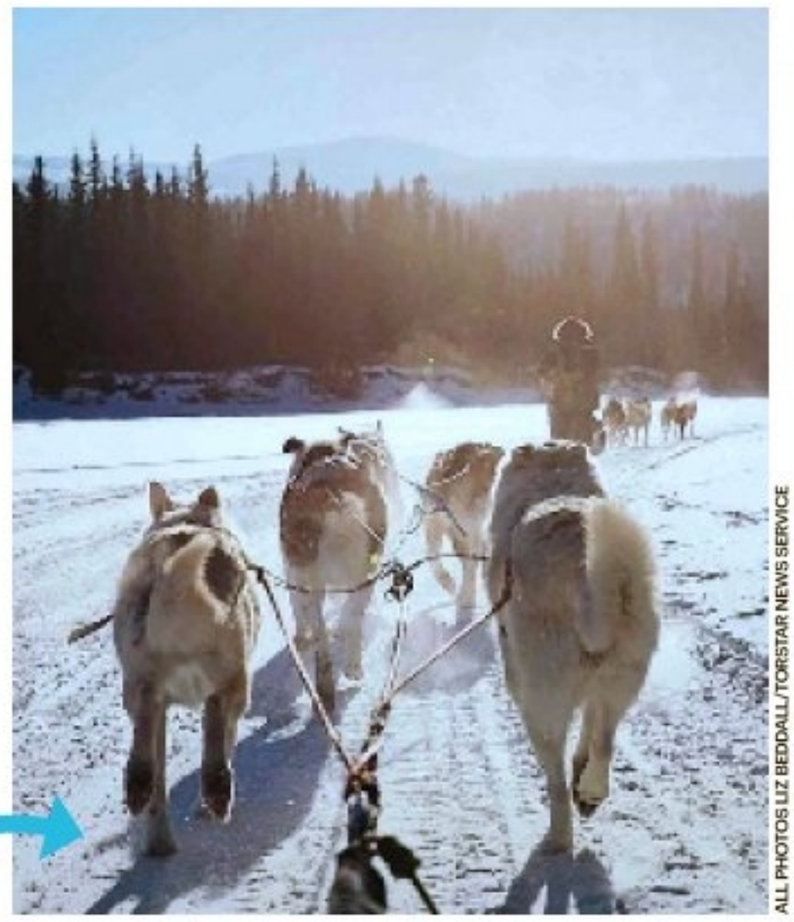
The Big Feastival Canada will showcase music on one stage, Canadian chefs cooking live on another as well as family entertainment.

The event is slated to take place at Burl's Creek Event Grounds in Oro-Medonte, Ont. from Aug. 18 to 20. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Whitehorse: A great winter escape

While you may be tempted to seek out a warmer climate in wintertime, Yukon's capital offers all you need to fall in love with the frost. Here are the best places to hit in the Wilderness City to celebrate all things seasonal and sub-zero. **LIZ BEDDALL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



ALL PHOTOS LIZ BEDDALL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The hot spot

You might not think to pack your bikini for a mid-winter trip to the North, but if you're coming to Whitehorse it's a must. The Takhini Hot Pools simmer throughout the winter at a cosy 47 C in the middle of 121 hectares of stunning Yukon wilderness, and is a favourite of locals and tourists alike. With its high calcium, magnesium and iron content, these springs don't stink the way many sulfurous ones can. Takhini Hot Pools is even available for parties and night rentals, so your closest friends can soak up the northern lights while the tips of their hair freeze into icicles. Details: takhinihotpools.com

Go on a high-speed chase

The Yukon wilderness is wild and untamed and so is your traveller's spirit. Kanoe People offers an opportunity to see the landscape, and a lot of it, in a hurry via thrilling snowmobile adventures. High-speed travel will take place along spectacular Lake Laberge, a 50-kilometre stretch of the Yukon River immortalized in The Cremation of Sam McGee. Cover frosted forest trails and spectacular open expanses of wilderness and do so warmly with help from Whitehorse's cold-weather-gear rental service, Arctic Range Adventure. Details: kanoepeople.com and arcticrange.com

Stay up all night

Chasing the northern lights can be an endeavour fraught with uncertainty, but taking that chance with Northern Tales Travel Services will result in a memorable night regardless. The tour takes you 30-minutes outside of the city to a light-free lookout and cabins stocked with refreshments and a roaring fire outside. Friendly guides armed with complimentary tripods will help you get your camera geared up to the perfect setting so you can bring the best shot back home. It's a long stretch (the tour makes its way back downtown at 2 a.m.) but well worth the wait when the sky begins to dance. Details: northerntales.ca

Crack the whip

No trip to the Yukon would be complete without your own sled quest led by a pack of wilderness-wise canines. Muktuk Adventures, run by Yukon Quest veteran Frank Turner, offers mushing excursions with the help of 125 friendly and eager Alaskan huskies who are ripraring to go with you down the frozen Takhini River. Hot beverages and delicious snacks are on offer post-ride at Muktuk's sprawling Whitehorse property, where you'll find a sun-soaked B&B graced by a cosy community of retired sled dogs. Details: muktuk.com

Take a history lesson

What appears to be a humble lodge on a quiet street is in fact a meticulously maintained and gorgeously presented showcase of the area's history. The MacBride Museum of Yukon History boasts rich exhibits and interactive displays under such themes as early Whitehorse, the natural history of the Yukon, First Nations history and the Gold Rush. Highlights include a gold-encrusted map of the rush's hot spots, an elaborate recreation of a turn-of-the-century tavern and the authentic cabin of Sam McGee, featured in Robert W. Service's famous wintertime poem. Details: macbridemuseum.com

Drink up

The slogan of this Whitehorse brewery is "beer worth freezin' for," and considering the founders conceived of their company over a northern campfire, you've got to figure they aren't lying. You'll find Yukon Brewing's beer served citywide, but join a brewery tour to see how it's brewed and prepared, all while enjoying copious sips of each Yukon-themed flavour. Beers such as Ice Fog, Lead Dog and Longest Night are bound to get you into the wintery spirit of Whitehorse. Details: yukonbeer.com

Liz Beddall was hosted by Tourism Yukon, which did not review or approve this story.

TOP 150 150
CELEBRATING CANADA'S GIFTS TO THE WORLD

Hockey gear invokes fear

SPORTS

Creepy goalie masks a part of hockey history

Sean Plummer

There is no evidence to suggest that Jason Voorhees was employed as a Canadian goalie prior to his death by drowning in the original Friday the 13th (1980) film.

Indeed, the infamous supernatural serial killer from Camp Crystal Lake only took up his scary goalie mask in 1982's Friday the 13th Part III (before then, a burlaps sack hid his deformed features).

But Jason was not the first scary guy to don frightening facial apparel. Montreal Canadiens goaltender Jacques Plante was eager to avoid another broken nose when he took to the ice on November 1, 1959. To that end, he wore a crude fibreglass mask whose blank features made him look like an early Hannibal Lecter.

Similarly, St. Catharines, ON-bred Boston Bruins goalie Gerry Cheevers used to adorn his mask with stitches, while Edmonton native Gary "Bones" Bromley rocked a skull-style goalie mask during his tenure with the Vancouver Canucks back in 1981.

More recently, in 2007, Vancouver Canuck Curtis Sanford adorned his helmet with a Saruman-like image, made all the more strange for its red eyes and curved fangs.

Boston Bruins goalie Gerry Cheevers used to cover his mask in stitches. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Say cheese!

Canadian love for macaroni and cheese — a.k.a. mac 'n' cheese — did not begin with the '90s-era Barenaked Ladies song "If I Had $1000000."

Macaroni and cheese was a 19th century import that came courtesy of British immigrants. Meanwhile, Kraft Dinner, a global foodstuff arguably most loved by Canadians (we consume some 55 per cent more than Americans), was first introduced to our country in 1937.

Students, the middle class and even the wealthy bow down before the mighty KD these days.

SEAN PLUMMER

Canadians can't get enough mac and cheese. ISTOCK

The polar bear license plates are used by drivers in the Northwest Territories. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Licensed to chill

Canadian license plates are boring, right?

They're six inches by twelve. Story done. Except in the country's north, where spotting a polar bear-shaped license plate is not uncommon.

First introduced in 1970, the polar bear design was trademarked by the Northwest Territories and used by Nunavut under license from the NWT until it expired in 2011.

The new Nunavut design was introduced in 2012, while drivers in the NWT continue to enjoy Canada's coolest license plates.

SEAN PLUMMER

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PURE Hockey
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Home-ice advantage in Gushue's favour

CURLING

St. John's skip takes aim at winning his first Brier

Brad Gushue and his foursome are the top-ranked team after winning the Canadian Open and Newfoundland and Labrador's playdowns. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Everything appears to be lining up nicely for Newfoundland and Labrador skip Brad Gushue in his quest to finally raise the Tim Hortons Brier tankard.

His St. John's foursome is the top-ranked team in the country. Gushue is coming off a Canadian Open title and smooth run through the provincial playdowns. Boisterous crowds are expected to pack Mile One Centre to cheer his every throw at the national men's curling championship, which opens Saturday.

All Gushue needs to do now is outlast a strong field and hope that a lingering left hip/groin injury doesn't flare up.

"It isn't where I want it, there's no doubt about it," he said. "And I don't think it will get to where I'd like it to be until the off-season when I'm not curling and I can spend all of my energy getting it stronger."

The injury kept Gushue off the ice for a few months at the start of the season but he has impressed since his return in December. He has continued his regular gym work and stretching routines to keep the affected area as strong as possible.

Gushue doesn't expect the injury to impact his performance, but admits he's a little worried about the length of the competition.

"It is what it is and we'll get through it," he said. "It's not going to stop me from playing."

Gushue made it to the final last year in Ottawa before falling to Kevin Koe, who returns this year as the Team Canada entry. Other teams expected to be in the playoff mix include Manitoba's Mike McEwen, Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs, Ontario's Glenn Howard and John Morris of British Columbia.

"I think it's a really tough field but I think we stack up great," Koe said. "To me essentially it's pretty much the same field as last year. A couple tweaks here and there, B.C. has a little stronger team I think with Morris in there. But last year was so tough and we managed to win it."

The Brier winner will represent Canada at the April 1-9 Ford world men's curling championship in Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PRIOR BRIER CHAMPS BY PROVINCE

- Alberta (27)
- Manitoba (27)
- Ontario (10)
- Saskatchewan (7)
- Northern Ontario (5)
- British Columbia (4)
- Nova Scotia (3)
- Quebec (2)
- Team Canada (1)

NHL

Burrows buries Avs in his Sens debut

Alex Burrows scored twice in his debut with the Ottawa Senators and led his new club to a 2-1 win over the Colorado Avalanche on Thursday.

Burrows was traded by the Vancouver Canucks to Ottawa on Monday in exchange for prospect Jonathan Dahlen. Burrows had played his previous 822 games with the Canucks.

Craig Anderson had a relatively quiet night needing to make only 22 saves for the Senators.

He did make a great right-pad stop off John Mitchell who was alone in tight on Anderson early in the third period.

Rene Bourque scored the lone goal for the Avalanche, who were kept in the game with a strong performance from Calvin Pickard who made 40 saves.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alex Burrows scored twice on Thursday. FRANCOIS LAPLANTE/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

THURSDAY In Ottawa

2	1
SENATORS	AVS

IN BRIEF

Bautista blasts first home run of spring in Jays' tie

Jose Bautista continued his impressive spring with a three-run homer, and the Toronto Blue Jays settled for an 8-8 tie with the Philadelphia Phillies in Grapefruit League baseball pre-season action Thursday.

Bautista went 2-for-2 in the game to increase his spring batting average to .500.

Left-hander JA Happ opened with two scoreless innings for Toronto, striking out two while allowing one hit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bogut switches sides in Cavs-Warriors rivalry

Andrew Bogut has changed jerseys — and perhaps sides in the NBA Finals.

The free agent centre, who played for the Warriors the past four seasons, signed Thursday with the Cleveland Cavaliers, joining the team he faced the past two Junes with a championship on the line.

Also Thursday, Golden State signed forward Matt Barnes, adding the edgy veteran after losing Kevin Durant to a knee injury.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Torres head injury 'was just a scare'
Atletico Madrid striker Fernando Torres tweeted from hospital that he was OK after collapsing and losing consciousness from a clash of heads in a Spanish league game on Thursday.

"It was just a scare," Torres wrote on Twitter.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dolphins expect to have Tannehill ready in April
Ryan Tannehill is expected to be ready for the Miami Dolphins' off-season program after missing the final four games of last season because of a sprained left knee, general manager Chris Grier said Thursday.

Tannehill was able to avoid surgery, had a successful rehabilitation and isn't expected to miss any team workouts.

"Ryan has done a tremendous job working," Grier said at the NFL combine. "He'll be there in April when they start with his teammates. He's fine, he's good. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McIlroy ill but in contention in Mexico
Rory McIlroy had more trouble with his stomach than his ribs. He opened with a 3-under 68 and was one shot out of a six-way tie for the lead as the Mexico Championship made a strong debut Thursday.

Phil Mickelson and Lee Westwood, two of the four players who were in the field for the first edition of this World Golf Championships event 18 years ago, each shot 67 and were part of a big group atop the leaderboard at Chapultepec Golf Club.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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6	9	5	7	1	8	2	4	3
8	3	4	5	6	2	7	1	9
5	8	3	6	4	7	9	2	1
7	1	2	8	5	9	4	3	6
4	6	9	3	2	1	8	7	5
9	4	8	1	7	3	5	6	2
3	5	7	2	9	6	1	8	4
1	2	6	4	8	5	3	9	7

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UFC 209 a treat for real fight fans

MMA

Thompson and Woodley to battle once more for title

Stephen Thompson, left, and Tyron Woodley fought to a draw at UFC 205 last November. MICHAEL REAVES/GETTY IMAGES

While the UFC waits for its mainstream stars to return to the octagon, the promotion has booked a UFC 209 card that appeals directly to its serious fight fans.

Conor McGregor, Ronda Rousey, Jon Jones, Georges St. Pierre and Brock Lesnar are all in various states of inactivity, suspension or retirement. Only St. Pierre has a fight currently booked, and it doesn't have a date. So Saturday's show from T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas is packed with talent, if not worldwide name recognition.

In the main event, welterweight champion Tyron Woodley and Stephen "Wonderboy" Thompson meet in a rematch four months after their entertaining majority draw. Moments before that, rising stars Tony Ferguson and Khabib Nurmagomedov will have one of the year's most anticipated bouts for the interim lightweight championship.

> **I'm going to break this guy.**
> Khabib Nurmagomedov on Tony Ferguson

If two title fights aren't enough, the pay-per-view portion of the card leads off with veteran heavyweights Mark Hunt and Alistair Overeem. Hunt happens to be currently suing the UFC, president Dana White and Lesnar, alleging racketeering and fraud in the circumstances around his fight last July at UFC 200 against Lesnar, who subsequently failed a doping test.

Woodley (16-3-1) retained his belt in New York late last year after two judges couldn't choose a winner in his first bout with Thompson (13-1-1), a 34-year-old karate teacher from South Carolina. The result left both fighters determined to prove their superiority, and the UFC swiftly scheduled a rematch — something that's not always a given in the money-driven world of mixed martial arts.

"I'm prepared to go out there and be a better version than what I was the last time," Woodley said.

Thompson hasn't lost a fight since April 2012, and he would love to continue his rise with a striking-heavy victory over Woodley, who claimed the belt last July.

In the co-main event, Ferguson (23-3) and Nurmagomedov (24-0) are facing off for a star-making shot at McGregor, the current 155-pound champion. The California-based contenders have spent most of the promotion sniping at each other.

"He thinks he's tough," Nurmagomedov said.

"But when the cage closes, me and him alone inside the cage, I'm going to break this guy."

Nurmagomedov has never lost, and the Dagestani-born fighter has rarely been seriously threatened during his first eight UFC fights.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC

GSP says he is new fighter

Georges St-Pierre says fans will see a different fighter when he returns to action later this year against UFC middleweight champion Michael Bisping.

"The sport has evolved since I left," said St-Pierre, who last fought in November 2013. "If I want to be successful, I need to evolve as well.

George St. Pierre GETTY IMAGES

"If the same Georges St-Pierre shows up the day of the fight, Georges St-Pierre is going to get his ass kicked. It's going to have to be a different Georges St-Pierre — a more opportunistic Georges St-Pierre, more powerful, better, with new tools, less hesitation, less thinking, more intuition and better reaction. And that's what I expect you to see."

The former welterweight champion will be 36 by the time of the fight, set for some time in the second half of the year likely in Las Vegas.

Bisping, 38, has fought eight times since St-Pierre walked away from the sport following his razor-thin split decision win over Johny "Bigg Rigg" Hendricks at UFC 167. St-Pierre left millions on the table after posting his 12th straight win, saying his life had become "completely insane" and a "freaking zoo."

More than three years on, the Montreal MMA star says he is in a better place.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Retro Veggie Sloppy Joes

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You won't miss the meat but will love the spice blend of cumin, chili and paprika that give this retro comfort meal an injection of tame heat. Don't forget the napkins.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 10 miminutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 chopped red pepper
- 2 (14 oz) cans black beans, rinsed
- 1 (14 oz) can of chick peas, rinsed
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp maple syrup
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp chili powder
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup shaved cheddar

Directions

1. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the onions and peppers.

2. Saute until the vegetables are softened.

3. Add the beans, tomato sauce, vinegar, maple syrup, cumin, chili powder, paprika and salt.

4. Simmer for 15 minutes. Serve on toasted whole grain bun and sprinkle with cheddar cheese.

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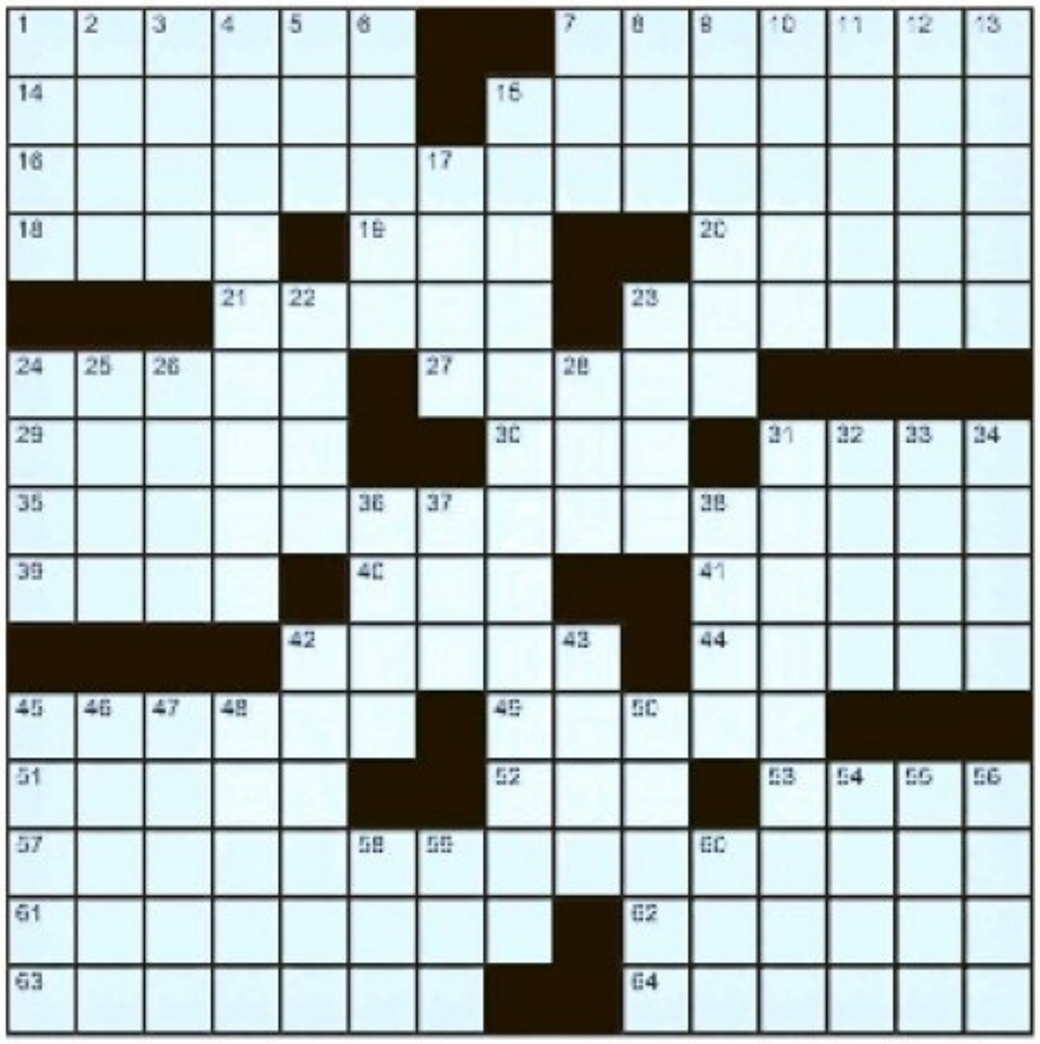
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Garbo and Van Susteren
7. Most quick
14. Pick up on that sound: 2 wds.
15. Go-with-coffee cookies
16. Make a friendly gesture, as between neighbours: 4 wds.
18. "Desperate Housewives" role
19. WPM's 'P'
20. Freda of song
21. Bob or Doug McKenzie
23. Servings of chilled-in-moulds desserts
24. Verboten
27. Store promotions
29. Glade target
30. Assembled
31. Director Mr. Mendes'
35. Titanic accommodation: 3 wds.
39. Alternative magazine, __ Reader
40. Ad __ committee
41. Foreigner's "Cold __ __"
42. SNL's Mr. Michaels
44. "Scott Pilgrim __ __ World" (2010)
45. Noon
49. Record over
51. Struck all of __ (Surprised or disconcerted)
52. Web connector, briefly
53. Near, fancy-style
57. Earth is one, some believe Mars might have been one: 2 wds.
61. Tolkien's nasty creatures: 2 wds.
62. Necklace piece to keep tiny keepsakes
63. Clickety-click-clicks - makes a mistake - uses the backspace key - then does this
64. F's music equivalent: note + word

DOWN
1. President Reagan's Veep-turned-Prez
2. Raise
3. House's gutter locale
4. Casey and Finnegan's set: 2 wds.
5. Small island
6. Layovers
7. 'Terri' tail
8. Residue kind
9. Extents/ranges
10. Entire
11. Solvent sort, __ acetate
12. Office item, __ pad
13. Car's wheels
15. Celtic family band from Cape Breton: 2 wds.
17. Shoe width sizes, e.g.
22. Dutch astronomer, Jan __ (b.1900 - d.1992)
23. Transports for ritzy travellers
24. Bean curd
25. Mine passage
26. "__ Free" (1966)
28. Guitar legend Mr. Paul
31. Mount in Alberta; or, Gaelic word for an outsider (Jamie's nickname for Claire) on Scottish Highlands set series "Outlander" on Showcase
32. Somewhat: 2 wds.
33. Detroit, __.
34. Snick-or-__
36. Bok __ (Stir-fry ingredient)
37. "Full House" star Ms. Loughlin, briefly
38. Cleveland basketballers, briefly
42. Easily portable computer
43. Gaelic
45. "Real Time with Bill __"
46. 2005: "Can __ It Like That" by Pharrell feat. Gwen Stefani
47. Money-spent transaction
48. __ Mail (British newspaper)
50. Genesis fruit
54. "__ Dinka Doo" by Jimmy Durante
55. Will of "The Waltons"
56. ://www's start
58. Sister Sledge's "We __ Family"
59. Guess Who's lead singer's initials-sharers
60. __ Alamos, New Mexico

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You might see new uses for something that you own today. Some of you will even see new ways to make money. Clever you! Ka-ching!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Take a realistic look in the mirror today, and ask yourself what you can do to improve your appearance. How can you create a better impression on your world?

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something powerful and secretive is present in your life today. If you are focused and aware, whatever it is might introduce improvements into your world.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today you will attract someone powerful to you. This might be a pleasant experience — or not.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your relationships with bosses, parents and VIPs will be intense and direct today. However, the outcome will be that the relationship is superior.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You might have a powerful discussion with someone about politics, religion or racial issues today. (It's tough to keep your shirt on if you have to get something off your chest.)

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today you might see a better way to deal with shared property or something that is jointly owned. You also might come to a better arrangement regarding an inheritance.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Discussions with partners and close friends will be emotional and strong today. People will show their feelings. Fortunately, things will be better after the dust settles.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Look for ways to introduce reforms and improvements to your job or where you work. Similarly, you might even see ways to improve your health.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Romance will be passionate and intense today. In fact, you might feel obsessed with something.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Family discussions will be intense today. However, the main focus will be introducing improvements to where you live. Don't get carried away. Avoid major theatrics.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You are so powerful and convincing today that you will be successful if you are in sales, marketing, teaching, acting or writing. No one will be able to resist your words of persuasion!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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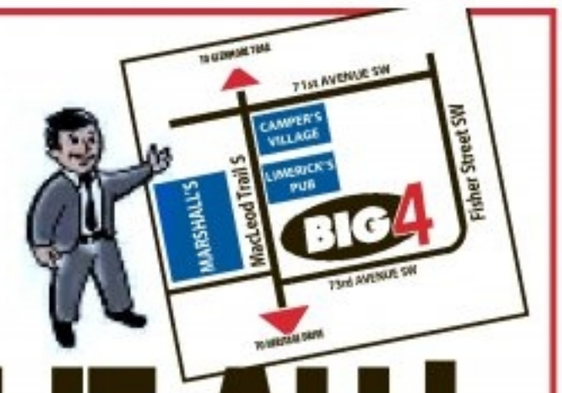

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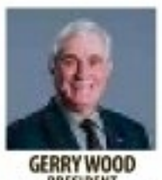

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